

Fowler hails the best unemployment figures since 1981

Jobless down to 2½m but growth slows

By Rodney Lord and Philip Webster

The number out of work fell below 2.5 million last month on a seasonally adjusted basis for the first time since 1981.

The Prime Minister hailed April's jobless drop of more than 56,000 as "very encouraging indeed".

She said in the Commons that unemployment had fallen for 21 months in succession and by something like half a million over the past year.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government's economic policies had produced a low level of inflation and sustained economic growth. "There are now very great opportunities for unemployed people to find jobs."

Mrs Thatcher urged unions now to co-operate with the Government's new adult training scheme to help meet skills shortages.

She told MPs at Question Time: "We are going to need more and more skilled people for the jobs that are available and I hope everyone, including the trade unions, will thoroughly support the new adult training scheme which is intended to give skills to 600,000 unemployed people."

The fall takes unemployment below 9 per cent.

Earlier, Mr Fowler, standing in front of a graph, demonstrating the big fall in the

jobless figure in recent years, said: "The work is there."

He said that international figures showed the considerable progress in Britain. The British unemployment rate of 8.8 per cent was significantly better than many European countries such as France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the Republic of Ireland.

The annual fall of 566,000 was the biggest since the Second World War.

"There are now very great opportunities for unemployed people to find jobs and the Government is working to ensure that they receive the training they need for this."

Mr Fowler said there was no reason that provided sensible lessons from the past were learnt that the reduction in unemployment should not continue.

But the delight among Conservative MPs over the unemployment fall was tempered by fears of higher inflation after the release of another set of unexpectedly high bank lending figures.

The figures illustrated the dilemma which has faced the Government in recent days in the differences between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, over exchange rate policy.

Vacancies rose last month by 8,200 seasonally adjusted and have increased by 17 per cent during the past year. Manufacturing employment was unchanged in the three months to March compared with the previous three months. But the number of

jobs in the economy as a whole has increased by 1.66 million between March 1983 and the end of last year.

Although more people are finding work the slowdown in production means unit costs have started to accelerate slightly. In March wages and salaries per unit of output were 4.3 per cent higher than a year earlier.

In spite of the continuing rapid fall in unemployment, growth in the economy may be starting to slow down. Industrial production in the first quarter of the year was 1 per cent below the level of the previous quarter, the Central Statistical Office reported yesterday.

The Treasury said a slowdown would be consistent with the Budget forecast of slower growth this year.

In spite of the signs of cooling off in the economy, bank lending and the money supply continue to grow rapidly. Lending by the banks and building societies rose last month by a record £8.2 billion.

The Government's favoured measure of the money supply, M0, expanded by 5.9 per cent in the year to April, keeping it outside the target range of 1-5 per cent.

The figures were greeted with some concern in the City, but foreign exchange traders calculated that they made further interest rate cuts less likely. The pound closed only slightly lower against the mark at DM3.1731 while the index measuring its value against a number of currencies rose 0.1 to 78.4.

Fears of higher inflation, continuing in the background in financial markets. But the latest figures for growth in earnings showed no increase on the previous month at an estimated underlying rate of 8.5 per cent. New figures for the retail price index are due today.

Last night Mr Michael Meacher, Labour spokesman on employment, said there was a long way to go before the country returned to the level of employment inherited by the Government in 1979.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, for the Social and Liberal Democrats, said that the latest employment figures were "a triumph for the Government's statistics department".



Mr Fowler with something to smile about yesterday. (Photograph: Denzil McNeelane)

Bush makes the break with Reagan on drugs

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Vice-President George Bush has decisively broken ranks with President Reagan for the first time in nearly eight years of unquestioning loyalty, declaring that he opposes Administration moves to drop drug charges against General Manuel Noriega of Panama.

Mr Bush, on a campaign swing through California, said that if elected President he would never bargain with drug dealers, whether they're on US or foreign soil. His remarks put him squarely against Mr Reagan's offer to drop charges against General Noriega if the strongman agreed to leave power.

deeply worried that he is perceived as dull and uninspiring, while remaining bogged down in lingering Iran-Contra controversies.

In the past week four opinion polls have demonstrated a precipitous drop in Mr Bush's

Jacksonville, Florida (Reuters) — The Colombian drug magnate Carlos Lehder Rivas was found guilty yesterday of smuggling 3.3 tons of cocaine into the United States in 1979 and 1980. The jury convicted Lehder and his co-defendant Jack Reed after seven days of deliberations.

popularity, with Mr Michael Dukakis, his Democratic rival, seizing the lead by a wide margin. Mr Bush's senior aides are urgently reassessing strategy and intend to focus

greater attention on quality-of-life issues like drugs, education, crime and jobs — the cornerstones of Mr Dukakis's campaign.

The Vice-President will also start to break out of his tepid criticisms of Mr Dukakis's policies, focusing instead in harsher language on the Massachusetts Governor's overall liberal tendencies and opposition to Star Wars and the Nicaraguan Contras.

Many senior Republicans are harsh in their assessment of Mr Bush, whose campaign style is aloof and decidedly dull. "How an incumbent Vice-President, who wrapped up his party's nomination in March, can be an underdog is amazing to me, but that's what he is," Mr Edward Rollins,

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BA angry at loss of two B-Cal routes from Gatwick

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways lost the lucrative Paris and Brussels air routes from Gatwick last night in a Civil Aviation Authority decision which recreates the concept of a protected "second force" of smaller airlines.

The ruling follows the first in a series of hearings in which BA is attempting to win back many of the route licences the CAA declared open to bids as the price of approving BA's £250 million purchase of British Caledonian.

British Airways put up a fierce fight especially over the Gatwick-Brussels route which will now be flown exclusively by Air Europe. The licence to fly to Paris has been granted to Dan Air which will compete with Air Europe.

British Airways attacked the decision — against which it cannot appeal on the orders of the EEC — as "anti-competitive". It had argued during the hearing that any airline which wanted to fly between Gatwick and the two main European business airports should be free to do so.

"The main arbiter should be the consumer and it is not necessarily the CAA which should make the choice for the consumer", BA said last night.

Mr Harry Goodman, Air Europe chairman, was delighted. He was told the news in Chicago and promised lower fares and a high standard of service.

"This now gives us room to grow and reinforces our view that we are now being seen as the new second force airline", he said.

For the first time the airline is planning business class services on both routes. Prices would be no higher than the existing economy fares.

The CAA was in a difficult position in allocating the licences because Gatwick airport is full and it is almost

impossible to fit in additional flights. B-Cal flew six times a day to Paris and four times to Brussels and its schedules were maintained by British Airways pending the hearings.

Four of its Paris slots will be allocated to Dan Air and two to Air Europe — which already flies there twice a day — and come into effect in October. On the Brussels route all four B-Cal slots will be made available to Air Europe.

The effects of the decision could be serious for British Airways which had been considering buying more Airbus A320 jets, partly for those routes.

The hearing was the first of four planned to run throughout the summer in which a total of 18 former licences held by B-Cal will be re-allocated. British Airways has already applied to continue to operate to Nice, Oslo, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester from Gatwick and will be seriously embarrassed if it is denied those routes too.

The CAA appears to be showing it is determined to encourage independent airlines to use Gatwick to compete against each other and against BA.

The giant carrier is expected to build up its marketing of its six weekday flights to Brussels and seven to Paris from Heathrow.

Although the loss of the two routes is unlikely to have any immediate impact on jobs because of the rapid expansion of air services generally, any similar decisions by the CAA to reduce BA's operations at Gatwick would inevitably lead to further cuts.

BA has been seeking 2,000 voluntary redundancies since it took over B-Cal last December.

Battleship Graf Spee may be floated again

Montevideo (Reuters) — An Uruguayan company will try to refloat the German battleship Admiral Graf Spee, sunk outside Montevideo in the Battle of the River Plate early in the Second World War.

Herr Helmut Grunow, who served on the ship as a gunner and now acts as a spokesman for the company, Acindar, said all that remained was for Acindar to sign a contract with the Uruguay Government.

The Graf Spee was scuttled outside Montevideo on December 17, 1939, after a bitterly

fought action with the Royal Navy cruisers Ajax, Exeter and Achilles. She lies four miles offshore and about 30 feet below the surface, buried under a thick mantle of mud. Señor Daniel Tabasso, the president of Acindar, said exploration would begin in about three months.

"It was a loss, not a defeat," said Herr Grunow, aged 69. She was sunk "to prevent the English from getting their hands on equipment that was ahead of its time, like the radar and engines".

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Excellence with economy

Labour demands discipline Mace MP loses party whip

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership's determination to crack down on indiscipline and action damaging to its public image was backed yesterday as it imposed the sternest punishment for 25 years against one of its MPs.

The Parliamentary Labour Party supported the leadership's recommendation to withdraw for three months the party whip from Mr Ron Brown, the MP whose action in damaging the ceremonial Mace last month detracted from Labour's attack on the Government over the poll tax.

But the stormy debate, which ended with the resignation of Mr Tony Banks, a party whip, in protest at the decision and involved a furious dispute between Mr Brown and a fellow Scottish MP over drinking allegations, again exposed the underlying strains between factions in the PLP with the left arguing that Mr Brown had been punished enough.

He returned to the Commons yesterday after a 20-day suspension.

Although the withdrawal of the whip was heavily backed, more than 40 Labour MPs showed their unease by voting for an alternative motion to "reprimand" Mr Brown.

The action against Mr Brown was intended to be a signal to the party that nothing should divert it from the political attack on the Government.

The decision came as the leadership made a fresh call for party unity with Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, warning Labour MPs that "anyone who diverts us from following the victory path will not be easily forgiven".

He said in a speech in Tebay, Dyfed, that to win, Labour must each day demonstrate its unity of purpose and loyalty to each other.

However, the tensions over what the left regards as the

authoritarian style of the leadership were evident in the PLP debate as Mr Derek Foster, the Labour chief whip, proposed the punishment against Mr Brown for failing to give an appropriate apology to the Commons having already undertaken to do so.

Mr Foster said: "The effect of the action was to detract from the revolt in the Tory party on the poll tax and the work done by our spokesmen on the poll tax and on the national health service".

Mr Tony Benn proposed that no further action should be taken against Mr Brown, but the MP for Edinburgh Leith did not endorse himself to his colleagues with a defiant speech in which he suggested they would better use their energies mobilizing the working class against the Tories.

Mr Brown said that he had been making a political protest when he grabbed the Mace.

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Kremlin setting up Afghan buffer zone

From Christopher Walker, Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan

Behind a smokescreen of public denials, the Kremlin is striving to create a pro-Moscow buffer zone in the provinces of northern Afghanistan bordering the Soviet Union, where it hopes economic muscle will enable it to retain a controlling influence after the last of its soldiers leave by mid-February next year.

Figures supplied to The Times by Mr Muhammad Rasool Barak, a leading Afghan businessman who works closely with the Soviet authorities, show that 95 per cent of the total trade of northern Afghanistan is now conducted with the Soviet Union, and that the number of joint economic ventures is being rapidly increased.

Already more than half the electricity consumed in northern areas of Afghanistan originates from across the border and the percentage is being stepped up by a number of large Soviet investment schemes. In return, the Soviet

Union provides a vital market for Afghan natural gas, which also comes from the mineral-rich northern region of the country.

Since the beginning of 1987, when Mr Mikhail Gorbachev finally convinced his Polit-

Moscow (AFP) — Western reports that 12,000 to 15,000 Soviet soldiers died during the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan are more or less correct, a Soviet political commentator, Mr Edward Rozental, said yesterday. It was the first indication by an official of the number of Soviet casualties since 1979.

buro colleagues that a pull-out from Afghanistan was unavoidable, the number of direct aid projects between Soviet republics and selected parts of northern Afghanistan has increased by more than 300 per cent.

Continued on page 24, col 2

Edward II's 'Rosary' Palace found in London

By Boris Johnson

Archaeologists working on an urban development site on London's south bank have discovered the long-lost palace of King Edward II.

They have also found the remains of the large house of Sir John Fastolf, though to be the model for the Shakespearean character Sir John Falstaff.

A large stone corner of the royal palace, built in about 1325, first came to light at the Hayes Wharf site last week, but excavators have tried to keep the discovery quiet because of the danger of attracting treasure hunters.

The firm of developers, St Martin's Development Corporation, is also

wary of publicity because its scheme to cover the site with offices and flats is already the subject of a public inquiry.

The discoveries have been hailed by the London Museum, which is organising the excavation, as "of enormous historical importance".

The dig is still in its early stages, and archaeologists are said to be in a state of high excitement about the prospects.

The palace was a large moated building, about 80 yards square. Known to historians as the "Rosary", it was a retreat on the far side of the river where the king could escape the cares of office.

According to Dr Colin Lucas, of Balliol College, Oxford, this is where the king enjoyed a reign of dissolution with his catamite, Piers Gaveston, before he was gruesomely murdered at Berkeley Castle by barons who felt he was too prone to foreign influence.

It is similar in design to a residence recently located in Rotherhithe, but not yet excavated, which was the palace of his son, King Edward III.

The building is mentioned in the nineteenth century antiquarian study *A History of the King's Works*, and an illustration of the site appears in a map of London by the sixteenth century cartographer Ralph Agas. The excavations of Sir John Fastolf's house are at such an early

stage that the 600-yard moat appears as only a shadow on the ground, but new light has already been cast on the historical figure. The discovery near the house of riverfront installations such as jetties and inlets suggests to experts that Sir John was quite unlike the rumbustious devil-may-care character that Shakespeare painted.

"There are far more docking installations than we had suspected. The evidence suggests that he was an important merchant who developed the riverfront," Mr Michael Hemmerson, of the London Museum, said.

Sir John Fastolf built the house, with drawbridge, granary, gatehouse

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MONDAY

● The Times marks the opening of the Chelsea flower show with a four-page colour supplement featuring the blooms you must not miss.

IN PART ② Manchester is Olympics candidate

Manchester was yesterday nominated by the British Olympic Association to be a candidate to host the 1996 Olympic Games. The association voted 20-11 for Manchester over its rival, Birmingham, which won the nomination for the 1992 Games but polled only eight votes from the International Olympic Committee.

The venue of the 1996 Games will be decided by the IOC in 1990. Other candidates are expected to include Athens — which staged the first modern Games in 1896 — Toronto and Atlanta.

Nestlé plea
Herr Helmut Maucher, the managing director of Nestlé, says in an exclusive article for The Times that Rowntree shareholders should be left free to accept Nestlé's £2 billion bid.

TIMES FOCUS
The Queen yesterday presented the 100,000th vehicle to a disabled person from Motability, the charity which helps put handicapped people back on the road again. A Special Report... Pages 37-40

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Strike threatens Vauxhall output

Vauxhall said yesterday it would be forced to stop vehicle production within days unless 233 women sewing machinists who are demanding parity with skilled and semi-skilled abandoned their strike.

The women, who make seat covers and other "soft" trim for all Vauxhall vehicles, walked out of the plant at Luton, Bedfordshire, earlier this week. They are demanding upgrading to the same status as fitters and specialist quality control workers who earn about £11.40 a week more.

Union officials were last night meeting Vauxhall management in Coventry to try to resolve the dispute.

A meeting of more than a thousand Land Rover workers has been called for Monday to consider a strike call over the company's decision to withdraw recognition of a shop steward, Mr John Walsh. He is accused of insulting security guards during a strike at the company's assembly plant at Solihull, West Midlands, earlier this year.

Owen attacks opt-out

Dr David Owen warned the Government yesterday of a public outcry if it pursued plans to allow patients to contract out of the health service. The SDP leader said that such a step would create a two-tier system of health and deal a destructive blow to the service. Dr Owen, who next month publishes a book on improving standards of health care, said ministers were straying beyond the normal tolerances of party politics.

£450,000 damages

A girl who suffered "catastrophic" brain damage in a road accident eight years ago was awarded £450,000 damages by the High Court yesterday. Jennifer Cook, aged 14, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, was injured when a car driven by her uncle was involved in a collision at traffic lights in Homerton, east London. Her skull was fractured, and after being in a coma for two months, she was left with the mental ability of a two-year-old. The uncle, Mr Christopher Cook, of Hackney, east London, was found liable for the accident at an earlier hearing.

Sale of head halted

Bonhams, the auctioneers, agreed in the High Court yesterday not to auction a preserved nineteenth-century Maori warrior's head. The planned sale of the head at an auction today brought an outcry from the Maori people who want it returned to New Zealand for burial. Bonhams initially resisted threats of legal action to stop the sale, but gave undertakings to Mr Justice Gibson not to dispose of it pending a full hearing of a bid for possession by Sir Graham Latimer, who was granted administration of the estate of the dead warrior by the New Zealand courts on Wednesday.

Vandals damage cars

A gang of "yuppie-bashers" is thought to have been responsible for damaging more than 30 Mercedes, BMWs and other expensive cars in Berkshire and Hampshire early yesterday. Police said the gang selected and attacked costly cars in Newbury, Berkshire, and at Ashmansworth and St Mary Bourne in Hampshire.

Staff keep break

Workers at the Sellafield nuclear plant, Cumbria, rejected a deal to end their 20-minute morning break. They were offered a lump sum of £1,800, plus £6 a week for two years in exchange for the "breakfast" break. The vote was 1,118 for and 1,171 against.

Former editor dies

Mr Michael Gabbert, an editorial director of the *Sunday Sport* newspaper and former editor of *The Star*, died from cancer yesterday aged 52. He was editor of *The Star* for eight weeks last year when he altered it radically with a greater emphasis on sex stories and pictures of topless women.

Dublin anger at extradition leak

By Paul Valley

The Irish prime minister, Mr Charles Haughey, was yesterday privately expressing his anger at a lack of security in the Crown Prosecution Service after news was leaked from London that Irish police were about to serve an extradition warrant on an IRA suspect.

The information was passed in advance to Independent Television News which had a television crew waiting outside Portlaoise prison on Wednesday morning to film Gardaí serving the warrant on Patrick McVeigh as he was released after serving five years for firearms offences.

A crowd of Sinn Féin supporters was also at the prison, creating a melee that enabled McVeigh to attempt to escape. Irish soldiers had to fire warning shots to quell scuffles before McVeigh was apprehended. The leak was allegedly made by a senior prosecution service official, although the prosecution service deny it.

Yesterday, a senior Dublin government source said: "Extradition is difficult enough without having to cope with TV pictures". Irish officials were particularly angry as suggestions that the Garda that media should not be informed in advance, to ensure that the nearest went smoothly. The extradition warrants were the first to be served on a suspected terrorist under a system agreed only last week between London and Dublin after months of difficult negotiations.

These centred around Dublin's insistence that the Irish attorney general must approve the warrants on the basis of a summary of the evidence against the accused man provided by his British counterpart. Three more convicted IRA men were released from Portlaoise yesterday but rumours that extradition warrants awaited them proved incorrect. Patrick McNamee, Frank McCabe and Frank "Lucas" Quigley left the prison after serving six-year sentences for possession of firearms and explosives.

Later in the day, however, nine people were arrested at a party to celebrate the release of Frank Quigley. McVeigh is scheduled to appear in court at Portlaoise today so that a district judge can grant an extradition order. The appearance is likely to begin a complex legal process which will severely test the new procedure, and could go to the Supreme Court, a process which would normally take more than two years.

In Belfast yesterday the Royal Ulster Constabulary detained six "loyalists" under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They are being questioned about the murders of three Roman Catholics at the Avenue Bar on Sunday.

TUC aim is cross-frontier collective bargaining

By Michael Dynes

Trades unions are preparing to take advantage of the inauguration in 1992 of the European internal market to engage in collective bargaining without frontiers. After years of indifferent neglect and often outright hostility towards the EEC, the British trades union movement is beginning to focus on Europe as a means of putting once sacrosanct policies such as the maintenance of full employment back on the political agenda.

Faced by declining union membership, attempts by "new realists" to gain recognition for single-union, no-strike deals, and persistent government hostility towards traditional practices, the TUC has been discreetly positioning itself to turn Europe's internal market to its own advantage.

Mr David Lea, TUC assistant general secretary, says that without

alternative employment opportunities for workers made redundant as a result of the industrial restructuring expected to accompany the 1992 programme, the move towards European economic integration will come up against a brick wall.

"There will be great support for the programme if this element is properly included," he told the European Trade Union Confederation conference in Stockholm last week. "But I have to say that communities will resist and oppose changes if there is no structural planning associated with them."

In spite of hostility from the business community over demands for the addition of this so-called "social dimension" to the 1992 programme, Mr Lea is confident that with the help of sympathetic allies in the European Commission, the 1992 programme could breathe new life into the ailing fortunes of European trade unionism, particularly in Britain.

The confederation, which represents workers in 21 industrialized countries, is demanding that the EEC include provisions in the 1992 programme to protect workers' freedom to move around the EEC, to strengthen social security and retraining provisions across national frontiers, and to establish the right of unions to engage in trans-national collective bargaining.

In an effort to add weight to its demands, the confederation has won backing from M. Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. When the EEC heads of state assemble in Hannover next month, they will be under pressure to incorporate the demands into the internal market programme.

The TUC is preparing its own report on 1992, in a late attempt to encourage trade unionists to catch up with employers' awareness of the 1992 programme.

Mr Lea rejects the view expressed by Lord Cockfield, the British Commissioner responsible for im-

plementing the internal market, that after 1992 the social measures demanded by trade unionists will automatically follow. Mr Lea says that unless trade unions take the initiative, harmonization of workers' rights and conditions will be based on the lowest common denominator.

The European Trade Union Confederation hopes to expand the scope of Article 118a of the 1987 Single European Act, under which the Council of Ministers can adopt directives laying down minimum health and safety requirements, to include provision for consulting trades unions.

"It is inconceivable to us that the 1992 programme can go forward without the establishment of rights to information, consultations and negotiation in companies set up on a European scale," Mr Lea said.

The European Trade Union Confederation is discussing with the Commission how to maximize the opportunities offered by Article

118a to introduce trade union-sponsored social legislation, and ways of codifying such directives in a "European Charter of Workers' Rights".

Along with his European counterparts, Mr Lea knows that if European trade unionists are to influence the nature of the internal market legislative programme they must act within the next two years.

After that, the legislative process will be dominated by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

Many European trade unions are still struggling to find ways of coping with the demise of traditional industries, which has left 16 million people unemployed in Europe, and the rise of small-scale private sector occupations.

Given the barriers presented by different languages, cultures and working practices, the task of orchestrating European-wide collective bargaining is not likely to be a simple one.

Payments to Europe may rise sharply, MPs warn

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Britain faces big extra payments to the EEC under arrangements hammered out by the Prime Minister last February, a Conservative-controlled committee of MPs warned yesterday.

The Treasury and Civil Service committee rushed out a unanimous report highlighting "serious difficulties" hours before a Commons debate on the funding arrangements, agreed by European heads of state in Brussels.

The MPs said Britain faced the prospect of either agreeing, with minimal discussion, to pay nearly £1 billion to balance this year's EEC budget, or of paying £250,000 a day in interest charges to finance the community's overdraft.

They warned that Britain would be asked to top up this year's budget without final, cast-iron agreements on the future funding arrangements. They were unconvinced that the legally-binding controls on spending that Mrs Thatcher had promised.

The Brussels agreement envisaged increased future funding, but with member states contributing up to 1.2 per cent of gross national product instead of 1.4 per cent of value added tax as at present - a substantial cash increase.

Ratification by each member state of the new method of funding was not expected until the end of 1988. An Inter-Governmental Agreement would be required in the meantime to top up this year's budget, which is nearing adoption. Britain's contribution would be roughly £876 million.

The EEC has said that it will require "substantial" extra funding as soon as the budget is adopted, and will call for member states' contributions on the first day of the following month, possibly June 1. The Treasury and Civil

Service committee, stressing the imprecision of Britain's estimated contribution, stated: "We do not believe that the House will find it acceptable to be given no more than a few days notice of such important business".

Without an Inter-Governmental Agreement the EEC would ask member states for overdraft facilities. This "might render the UK liable to £250,000 in interest charges per day, the Government's legal advice being that the UK is probably obliged to respond positively to such requests", said the MPs.

They urged the Government to press for sufficient time for national parliaments to give full consideration to "what is a most important Inter-Governmental Agreement".

The committee, chaired by Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing and a former Treasury minister, also warned that Parliament may be pressed to agree its contribution for this year before final agreement had been reached on future funding arrangements.

Uniform ways of measuring each member state's gross national product had yet to be achieved. Britain's figures were not reliable, and "since we are sceptical about whether those of all other member states are an adequate basis for assessing contributions, there could be significant financial implications for all member states", the committee said.

"Given the community's failure in the past to control its expenditure, and notwithstanding the many significant improvements which were agreed at the Brussels summit, we believe there are grounds for remaining sceptical about the prospects for proper budgetary control."

Treasury and Civil Service Committee: European Community Finance.

Crown's man in court

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

It was a typical day in Court 1 at West London magistrates' court. Mr Andrew Osborne, the crown prosecutor taking the morning list, had got up at 6am to arrive at court by 8.15. Two huge bundles of white files of cases were waiting for him: the morning's caseload of nearly 60 cases.

By 9am, the list had grown to 65 with all the overnight arrests coming in from the three police stations near by. He had just 45 minutes to digest new cases before the court doors opened.

Mr Osborne sat at his bench in court - the Crown Prosecution Service has no office - and worked his way rapidly through the files, armed only with a bottle of Perrier water.

"Most of the cases I have seen before. But some only came in late yesterday afternoon; others were prepared late for one reason or another and there are all these overnight arrests. The overnights are supposed to be here by 8.30 but these have just come in."

As he worked he filled many of the folder details. "The support staff are supposed to do this but I like to make sure the names and charges are right." One problem, he said, was that defendants gave false names; another was the lack of information on previous convictions.

"This is the base of a prosecutor's life. I think the police have trouble keeping their records updated. It often means that case cannot be proceeded with; sentence cannot be passed, and bail decisions are impossible."

In all, the 65 files, some an inch thick, covered about 135 charges, from rape to shoplifting, to assault.

It was 9.30pm and the final up-to-date list of the cases has arrived, just 15 minutes before doors opened. Some of the files on the list were missing: "There is one here that still has not come from Fulham police station; it is an hour late already".

Mr Osborne, aged 29, came to the Crown Prosecution Service when it was set up in London in October 1986. He earns about £15,000, soon to be substantially increased. "The job is both rewarding and frustrating; it is frustrat-



Mr Andrew Osborne at the end of his court day yesterday.

ing when things go wrong that are beyond your control." It is 9.45am and the papers arrive from Fulham. So do the defence solicitors. A queue starts behind Mr Osborne: they want to know about their cases. Have the commitment papers arrived? What bail conditions are to be imposed? Will he agree not to ask for a surety?

By 10.15am half a dozen are still waiting. Mr Osborne sees the last of them at the stipendiary magistrate, Mr Harold Cook, takes his place. Between 10.30am and 1pm all 65 cases are dealt with. Mr Osborne is up and down as the defence solicitors move in and out of the benches. Most are remanded (either for further reports or because of some hitch); there are a couple of commitments (the papers for one arrive just in time at 11.45am); many involve the defendant selecting mode of trial and just two are settled.

A man up for shoplifting two cans of lager is fined £50; two men involved in a street fight are conditionally discharged. In several cases papers have been lost or are not ready; but yesterday, at least, Mr Osborne was not in the firing line: the police were apparently responsible. By 1pm, the court was almost clear. An exhausted Mr Osborne could get his first bite to eat for hours. "This is the first time I can remember we have finished the morning list", he said. In the afternoon he would perhaps have 100 traffic cases to handle.

Cash for crime watch group

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A national organization designed to promote the best ideas in crime prevention is to be launched next week with initial government funding of £500,000.

Ministers expect the body to attract private money later to ensure its independence from government policy.

It will act as a register of the 50,000 neighbourhood watch schemes, help to co-ordinate their activities and encourage initiatives developed by individual schemes.

The chairman designate of the body is Mr Steven Norris, the former Conservative MP for Oxford East, whose request for a £500,000 budget for 1988-89 is expected to be approved by the Treasury. Mr Norris co-wrote a report for the Home Secretary on how best to create the national crime prevention organization and build on growing community involvement.

He will be flanked by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, at the launch of the body on Monday.

It hopes to encourage businesses and developers to take a much greater interest in crime prevention when they design premises and housing estates.

The new body will involve the police, representatives of local government and voluntary organizations, business and commerce, and delegates from the insurance industry.

Last night Mr Marion Roe, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, highlighted the success of an initiative to improve life in blocks of flats by installing a concierge.

She praised a pilot scheme in North London, on an estate that had suffered from vandalism and crime. Two receptionists were brought in to operate a door control system.

Mrs Roe said the rate of vandalism had fallen and there had been no personal attacks and only one burglary since the scheme began.

Police protest, page 5

Seamen's union to ballot on merger proposal

By Peter Davenport

The National Union of Seamen (NUS) yesterday took a big step towards ending its existence as an independent organization, less than a year after celebrating its centenary.

The union was troubled by falling membership and limited funds even before it was fined and its assets sequestered during the P&O dispute. Now its members are to be balloted on proposals to merge with one of two larger unions.

Delegates at the biennial conference in Hull agreed to a recommendation from its executive council to ballot members on whether to amalgamate with the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) or Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU).

Many of the seamen's leaders

paying subscriptions, just to break even.

Mr Roger Wilkins, NUS deputy general secretary, said the union was faced with having to sell investments.

The ballot is expected towards the end of the year and once the result is known NUS officials will begin detailed negotiations with the favoured union. There will then be a further ballot to determine if the terms are acceptable.

The NUS is to seek the expulsion of the shipping officers' union from the TUC because of its actions during the P&O dispute at Dover. Delegates at Hull voted unanimously for a resolution instructing the NUS general secretary, Mr Sam McCuskie, to "initiate whatever action necessary" to expel the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers from the TUC.

However, others fear that the NUS,

ply vessels in the North Sea.

Fines of £10,000 were imposed in each of three cases brought by Drangate Ltd., of London, BUE International Ltd., of Leith, and the Stirling Shipping Company, of Glasgow.

with an official membership of 24,000 but which is acknowledged as several thousand fewer, would simply be swallowed up by the TGWU and become a trade group.

An amendment was also approved yesterday which will mean that there will be a third option on the ballot forms, which will go out later this year, to allow members to vote for the union to "go it alone".

Officials advised that that was not a viable alternative. The union would need 7,000 new members every year

Ferry dispute has cost P&O '£25m'

By Peter Davenport

The National Union of Seamen said yesterday that its dispute with the P&O group had cost the company more than £25 million.

A survey of the losses incurred during the four months of the dispute at Dover has been prepared for the union by a firm of maritime economic consultants.

Mr Sam McCuskie, NUS general secretary, said yesterday that the figures showed the company had already lost more than four times the amount it was hoping to save each year through the introduction of the proposals that led to the strike.

P&O refused to discuss the figures. According to the report, the company would have expected to have carried 2.2 million passengers, 265,000 cars and 140,000 freight vehicles on its services to Calais, Zeebrugge and Boulogne from Dover in the four months to the end of May. Together with duty free profits the operations would have generated £48 of gross revenue.

Against that, P&O had earned £5 million of revenue through extra traffic diverted to its services in Felixstowe and Portsmouth, and had also saved £9.8 million in wages, £6.5 million in port charges and £1.5 million in bunkering and fuel costs.

The union said that the net losses of £25.2 million ignored the lay-off charges for strikebound ships, the costs of the company's extensive advertising campaign, aircraft charters to fly crews out to sail ferries back from European ports and the loss of customer goodwill.

The document says: "P&O could argue that it has saved some £4.6 million in redundancy costs, based on an average £10,000 payment to 460 individuals. But this assumes that the alternative to the dispute was an acceptance by the NUS of immediate job losses on this scale."

In fact, the losses could have been achieved free of cost through natural wastage, it says.

The document admitted that the figures did not take into account the savings in wages as a result of employees being laid-off on the Continent or the commission earned by P&O through its joint marketing of services with a Belgian concern, estimated at £1 million. It also assumed that the revenue from skeleton services which resumed this month was paying for the extra wage costs.

Union officials said yesterday that the firm of maritime economics consultants had offered to carry out the investigation but wished to remain anonymous because of links with other companies in the industry. Calculations were based, partly, on figures provided by the Dover Harbour Board and Customs and Excise.

Mr McCuskie said the union intended to increase the company's losses by continuing to disrupt its cross-Channel services and by encouraging a consumer boycott.

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Police chief orders inquiry on evidence for football trials

By David Cross and Stewart Tindler

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mr Peter Inbert decided yesterday that no more prosecutions against alleged football hooligans will be considered until a Metropolitan Police Complaints Authority investigation into the probability of police evidence tendered in two failed court cases is completed.

More than 300 police logs and several thousand documents are to be examined. "However long it takes and whatever the result I will not tolerate any type of behaviour that betrays the London police force," Mr Inbert said last night.

Prosecution files prepared for three forthcoming trials of alleged football hooligans at Southwark Crown Court, central London, are to be scrutinized carefully.

The Crown Prosecution Service said last night that special attention would be given to a review of police observation logs to be used as evidence against 17 Millwall supporters. The first of the cases, involving 10 supporters, was due to open on Monday.

"We will be looking at the evidence in each case very carefully, examining the general quality of the evidence and especially the logs," the service said.

A full investigation by Detective Superintendent Roger Thomas, a senior officer with Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau, has begun into the two police operations against Chelsea and West Ham United supporters which were thrown out of court.

Scotland Yard is also expected to review police evi-

dence in other outstanding cases against alleged football hooligans.

The collapse of the Chelsea case in particular was a "tragedy" which would inevitably affect the outcome of other cases, senior officers said yesterday.

At least 50 football supporters are facing trials in London for alleged hooliganism, and dozens of others have been arrested in similar operations in Manchester, Birmingham and Wolverhampton. A trial is currently under way in Leeds against 10 Leeds United supporters who were arrested last year.

Lawyers representing a Chelsea supporter who was jailed for 10 years last May for organizing a riot, said yesterday that they were considering an appeal against his conviction.

Mr William Fearn, the solicitor for Stephen Hickmott, aged 32, a former self-employed courier, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, said that an appeal or a retrial would be sought.

Lawyers representing several of the 19 defendants released on Wednesday and last week have said that they will be seeking civil damages for wrongful arrest against the police. The claims could total more than £1 million.

Hickmott, one of five Chelsea football supporters sentenced at Inner London Crown Court to prison terms, has already been granted legal aid to appeal against the severity of his sentence, which was handed at the time as a deterrent.

At least two of the policemen who gave evidence in that trial were involved in the latest prosecution at Knights-

bridge Crown Court against eight Chelsea supporters after a police undercover operation called Own Goal.

The six-week trial, which cost about £500,000, ended with the fixing of the fans on Wednesday when the prosecution admitted that there had been irregularities in eight of 94 pages of records kept by officers who had infiltrated the alleged gang.

Senior Scotland Yard sources said yesterday that they were "flabbergasted" by the decision to throw out the case. The log-book alterations had been made by a zealously over-riden officer, who had replaced codenames used in the logs with real names.

Sergeant Michael Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan branch of the Police Federation, yesterday blamed the collapse of the cases on the lack of supervision of young officers, as well as glaring gaps in the way cases were prepared. The Crown Prosecution Service should also share some of the blame, he said.

He told the annual conference of the federation in Scarborough: "The officers doing this undercover work are young in age and police experience."

Many supervisory officers were overloaded with extra work caused by legislation such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

"The younger you are in service, the more supervision you need. I think recent events will make police officers somewhat reluctant to get involved in a job when they know from the outset that their career and livelihood are on the line."

Leading article, page 17

Moving day at Chelsea



Miss Sarah Dorley, from Hillier Nurseries, Winchester, moves a maple tree to a stand at the Chelsea Flower Show, which opens to the public on Tuesday (Photograph: Bryn Colton)

Careers book rates actuarial work the best

Chicago (AP) — Few American youngsters are likely to answer "actuary" to the question of what they want to be when they grow up, but a new book rates it as the best job of all.

Typical children's choices such as doctor and astronaut ran far behind less glamorous professions such as computer programmers, parole officers and statisticians in *The Jobs Rated Almanac*, published by American References here.

Actuaries, who interpret statistics to determine expected personal losses due to sickness or disability and material losses from disasters, emerged top as determined by the almanac's six criteria: salary, stress, work environment, outlook, security and physical demands.

Jobs at the top of the book's list of 250 positions in the US do not necessarily carry the most prestige or the best pay, because those jobs often have other drawbacks, the book's editor and publisher, Les Krantz, said.

Mr Mike Vaughn, aged 23, an actuary in training, endorsed the almanac's selection of his profession. He pointed out that his annual salary of \$31,000 (£16,650) was probably 20 to 25 per cent higher than for any other job he could have got, "and it goes up faster".

He added: "Once the (training) exams are over, I'd say the stress would be pretty much non-existent, and the job market is so open I could just walk out and find a new job in a day," said Mr Vaughn, who works for Allstate Insurance.

Galleon tour

Manila (AFP) — A Philippine group plans to build a galleon to tour the world and take part in Spain's 1992 celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

Africans urged to promote tourism

Harare (AP) — African travel experts were urged yesterday to combine their promotional efforts to capture the rich global tourism market.

"The African market is like a sleeping giant," Erik Friedheim, chairman of the New York-based Africa Travel Association, told a conference of the organization in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare.

"The travel industry is looking for new destinations. Therefore, it is imperative to have a co-ordinated marketing thrust," he added.

The five-day conference opened here on Monday to explore ways of attracting more travellers to the continent with its theme "Africa tourism: preparing for the 1990s".

Many African countries depend on tourism for much of their foreign currency income. Mr Friedheim, an American travel writer, told 200 delegates to the congress that combined promotions by African nations would guarantee them a greater share of the global tourism market, particularly from Europe and the United States.

Panda show

Washington (AP) — A federal judge has cleared the way for Toledo Zoo to begin showing two giant pandas from China by rejecting a wildlife group's request for an urgent hearing to bar the exhibition.

Near and dear

New York (AP) — A Manhattan welfare hotel has been accused by Legal Aid lawyers of forcing families of three to live in 9 ft by 12 ft spaces without bathrooms, tables or chairs, while collecting \$1,230 (£660) a month rent from the city.

National Health Service lottery

DPP ready to decide on £50,000 draw

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Director of Public Prosecutions will decide this morning whether to bring charges against the privately-run National Health Service Lottery which could stop its first £50,000 draw on May 23.

The DPP confirmed yesterday that it is considering a complaint submitted by the Gaming Board which alleges that the lottery, set up to raise £150 million a year for the NHS, contravenes the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 1976.

However, the organizer, the newly-formed National Hospital Trust, is confident that no prosecution will be brought. The first draw is expected to bring in 50,000 coupons, each worth £2.

A DPP spokesman said that the Gaming Board alleged the lottery had not been registered in accordance with statutory requirements, and the prize money exceeds the legal limit for a single lottery. The spokesman added: "We have now submitted the papers to counsel and we will make a decision based on their advice."

The managers of the scheme, Loto Ltd, admit the lottery has been tailored specifically to circumvent the legal

restrictions of the Lotteries Act. By registering 100 local lotteries the combined prize money, confined to £2,000 per lottery, could reach £200,000.

The DPP spokesman said that it is irrespective of the number of lotteries the total prize money could still be illegal.

The NHS lottery, supported by Sir Douglas Black, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, has also run into difficulties over registration. Although the trust applied for registration with the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea before it sent out five million lottery coupons last month, registration has still not been approved and technically the scheme is now running illegally.

The borough council said it had not approved the first five applications it received because the forms had not been properly completed. "This morning we received the remaining 95 applications and the queries have been answered," the council said. "The registration will be considered by the policy and resource committee on May 24 but we expect it to be approved."

Mr Roger Cummins, from Loto Ltd, who is managing the lottery said last night that the DPP was very unlikely to press charges. "The draw will not take place before the registration and by Tuesday the position will correct itself."

Under the scheme, 50 per cent of the money collected is redistributed in prize money, 35 per cent goes to the NHS and 15 per cent on administration costs. The first prize is 65 per cent of the winning pool. If the DPP decides to stop the scheme the NHS stands to lose a £17,500 bonus next week.

Last month the Prime Minister supported the lottery and said that it appeared to be run legally.

However in a parliamentary answer on Wednesday Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said that both his department and the Gaming Board were taking "a close interest in the lottery because of the promoters' statements that they have found a means within the Lotteries and Amusements Act, to offer a first prize considerably in excess of the maximum amount which the law allows for a single lottery."

Choir schools facing crisis

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Britain's choir schools are in crisis and its cathedrals could become "as silent as the great French cathedrals have become", according to the chairman of the Choir Schools Association.

Mr Christopher Martin said that the threat to Britain's great tradition of sacred choral music comes from the decline of the parish choir and of singing in schools.

The association of 37 schools in meeting in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, to discuss the big decline in young boys competing for places in

some of the most celebrated choirstalls in the world. Since last year the number of boys entering at age seven fell by nearly a quarter and those entering at 11 fell by 10 per cent.

Comparisons with previous years are not possible as not all schools completed the association's annual questionnaire but it is clear that far fewer boys entered voice trials.

Mr Martin, head of Bristol Cathedral Choir School, said: "Whereas instrumental and creative music have flourished along with pop music on

the musical agenda of primary schools, singing has not. Thus, when a young choir is a voluntary lunchtime activity boys deprived of encouragement from music classes do not queue to sign up.

"Young choirs are increasingly a female preserve but the chorister for clear musical reasons remains male."

He criticized the Government's proposals for a national curriculum that allocates 10 per cent of time to music, art, drama and design, which effectively represents one music lesson a week.

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Researchers detail child abuse link

By Jill Sherman

Incest can affect any family and the abuser is most likely to be the natural or step-father, according to a book by specialists to be published next month.

Latest research shows most children are abused by someone they know.

Dr Danya Glaser, consultant child psychiatrist at Guy's Hospital, and Mr Stephen Frosh, lecturer in psychology at Birkbeck College, London, say that there is an inherent link between male sexuality and child abuse.

Men suffer from emotional illiteracy which makes it hard for them to express their feelings.

Characteristic patterns of male socialization — withdrawal from emotion, separation of sex from relationships and derogation of women — are intrinsically linked with child sexual abuse. *Child Sexual Abuse* (Macmillan Education: £5.95).

Defaulting charities warned

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Defaulting charities were cautioned yesterday that their trustees could be removed or their assets transferred to other charities.

The warning was issued by the Charity Commissioners, who accepted criticism of the present supervisory system. The risk of loss to charity under it is "considerable and unacceptable", they said in their annual report.

The computerized central register of charities now to be installed would enable the commission to warn the public of charities in default.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has announced the Government's decision to strengthen the commissioners' powers to deal with abuse.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee accused the commission of failing to protect the public from the risk of fraud, abuse and misadministration.

Sir Philip Woodfield's scrutiny of the supervision of

charities said the industry was rife with fraud because of the limited powers and capacity of the commission.

The commissioners' report yesterday said that the poor level of submission of charity accounts prevented the commissioners from exercising any effective comprehensive oversight, even if they had the resources to undertake it, or from providing the public with full information.

An accountant has been appointed to train staff and earmark types of charities where scrutiny will have most effect.

The report said the commissioners were concerned "at the incidence of fund-raising frauds in certain areas and of the small but significant number of persons who cynically manipulate the special status of charity to facilitate tax evasion schemes for their own benefit."

"The answer in our view is

constant vigilance by the public and trustees alike, an effective system of public accountability by trustees and efficient supervision and, where necessary, quick remedial action on our part."

The commissioners said they had drawn attention to their lack of resources and adequate powers to act quickly to deal with abuse.

Of about 1,000 complaints against trustees they had received in the 12 months to July 1987, 18 per cent arose from allegations of dishonesty or fraud on the part of their trustees, their agents or employees or of trustees benefiting improperly from their trust.

By the end of 1987 the commissioners were studying 51 cases passed on by the Inland Revenue and a further 51 are in the pipeline.

Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales for the year 1987 (Stationery Office: £5.40).

Stuffed eagle lands Bonhams in court

Bonhams, the London auctioneers, and a taxidermist, Mr Malcolm Everett, must answer to criminal charges over their possession of a golden eagle years after it met with an untimely death on a Scottish moor, the High Court ruled yesterday.

How it died remains a mystery but the court told the auctioneers and Mr Everett that, in their defence to summonses alleging unlawful possession of a dead wild bird, it would be for them to show that it was probably not intentionally killed or taken.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Kennedy allowed an appeal by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds against a stipendiary magistrate's decision at Horseferry Road court, central London, that there was no case to answer.

Yesterday's decision centred on the interpretation of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, which makes it an offence to possess a "dead wild bird".

Lord Justice Watkins said the eagle was found dead on a Scottish island by a tourist in 1983. It was then stuffed and mounted and eventually came into the possession of Mr Everett, who asked Bonhams to sell it at auction. It was seen at the saleroom by a RSPB inspector.

A RSPB ornithologist decided the bird had been shot with a high velocity rifle or had accidentally hit an electric power cable. The judge said the defendants would not be guilty if they could show that, on the balance of probabilities, the bird was not intentionally killed or taken.

Until they could show that accidental contact was the more likely cause of death, they could not expect the court to find that the bird was not killed unlawfully.

The court accepted the defendants' definition of "taken" in the Act as meaning "captured" and as applying only to live birds.

Bonhams and Mr Everett successfully argued before the magistrate, Sir Bryan Roberts, that they had no case to answer because their possession of the bird was "an incidental result of a lawful operation" — in Mr Everett's case, purchase of the bird, and in Bonhams' case, its acceptance for sale.

Lord Justice Watkins said that defence could not succeed because possession of the bird was not the incidental result but "the direct and intended result" of a lawful operation. The court also dismissed the defendants' argument that "dead wild bird" could only be one just killed by a poacher, not to a stuffed bird which had been dead for years.

Lord Justice Watkins said: "We do not see how it can be said that the object in the glass case was no longer a dead wild bird. Anyone who asked what it was would be told that it was an eagle, and plainly it was not alive."

Law Report, page 32

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car is still in running order. The reason is as simple as the cars are complex. Its radical engine was married to just as radical a chassis, and it became an instant classic. At its unveiling it merely reconfirmed the margin of Mercedes-Benz design and engineering superiority.

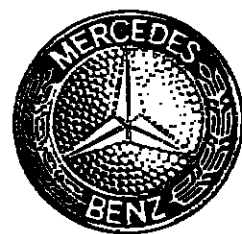
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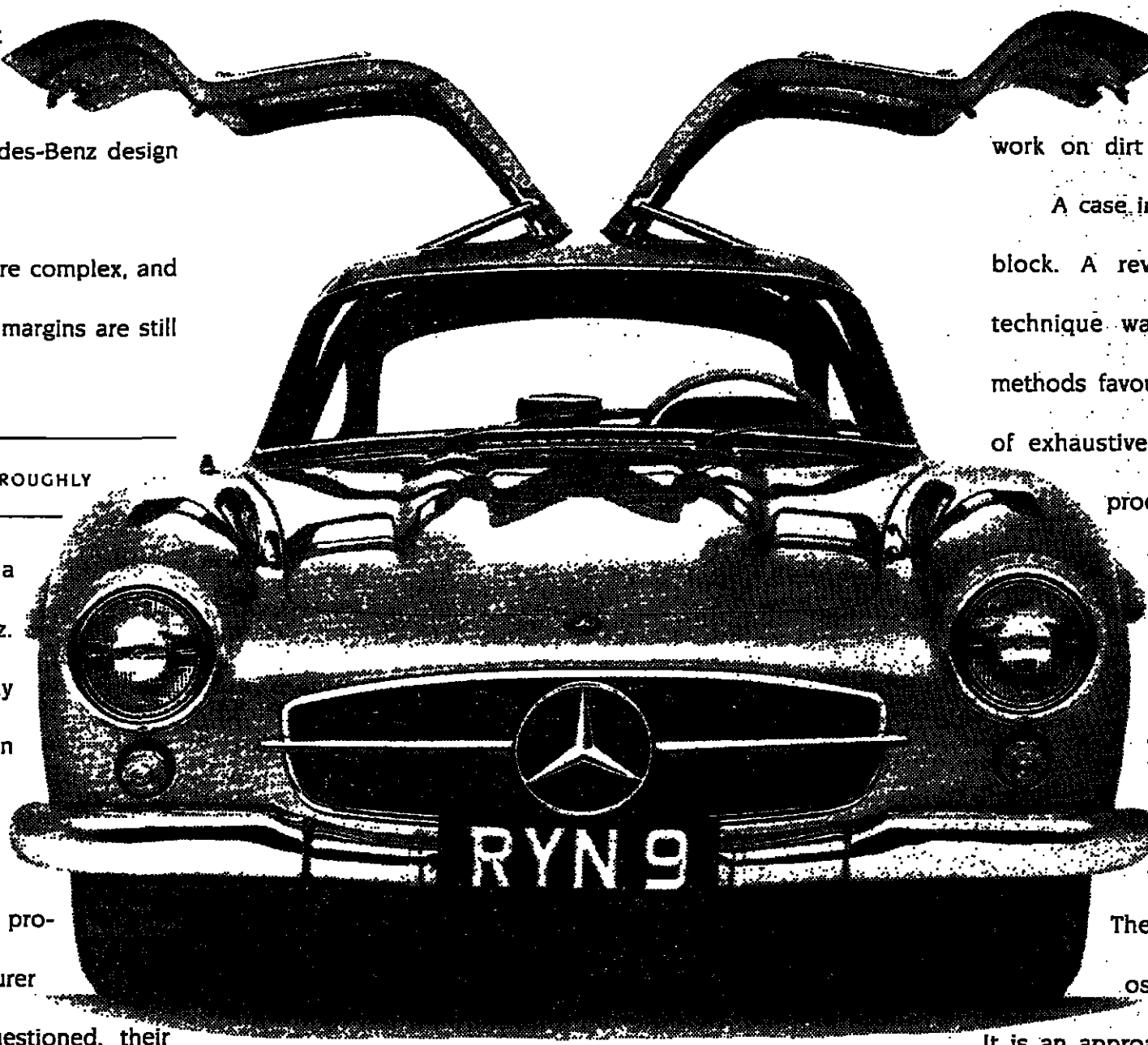
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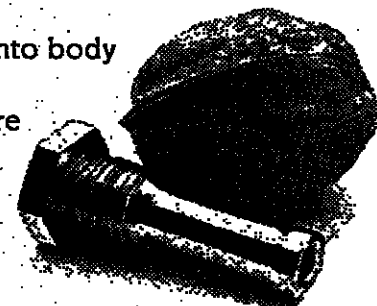
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A small example: even when a computer has decided that exactly the right amount of wax solution has been injected into body section cavities to ensure anti-corrosion protection, an inspector double-checks the wax application by inserting a specially designed endoscope into the most seemingly inaccessible crevices. And only Mercedes-Benz, surely, uses ground walnut husk powder and oil as a mild abrasive with which to clean and polish the interior of newly machined gearbox casings.



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Prosecution plan for officers criticized

Police treated 'worse than terrorists', conference told

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Reporter

The Police Complaints Authority's plan for prosecuting officers was attacked yesterday as unfair, exerting legal powers over officers that "even terrorist gangs" were spared.

Senior Police Federation officials expressed outrage at their annual conference yesterday at the authority's plans for handling cases where a group of police officers maintain silence over allegations of assault.

The authority announced last week that it could in future charge the whole group of officers with criminal or disciplinary offences whether or not the individuals were involved in the assault.

Sergeant John Thompson, a Gloucester officer and senior federation official, told the conference in Scarborough: "These proposals are totally unacceptable because they mean that no one has got to prove your guilt but you have got to prove your innocence." Young officers would be intimidated by investigators into talking.

Sgt Thompson said the authority was a group with no interest or knowledge of the police. The cost of running the authority would pay for 200 police recruits for a year.

Police Constable Ian

Special constables are being used increasingly in plain clothes work as a means of making up for shortfalls in manpower, the annual Police Federation conference was told yesterday.

A federation official revealed that "specials" were used as police observers to catch prostitutes in the red light area of Norwich, but that the practice had been stopped after complaints from the federation.

The increasing use of the unpaid specials in many jobs, including the driving of police vehicles, was highlighted as speakers at the conference complained about a reliance on the volunteer officers.

A survey of 43 forces in England and Wales showed that 22 chief constables were overusing or misusing the specials, according to local federation officials.

Westwood, leader of the federation's Greater Manchester section, said the authority consisted of "middle-class wallies", who were "playing Sherlock Holmes" with the lives and careers of policemen.

The plans for prosecuting police officers set out by the authority reduced the burden of proof, he said. "They can't do it to terrorists, but they can do it to the police." He called for a motion of no-confidence in the authority to be debated

Police Constable Peter Cripps, the organizer of the survey, said the use of the volunteers was legal but not ethical.

Five forces in addition to the Norwich police were also believed to be using the specials in plain clothes work. One force had been using plain clothes specials for more than two years.

PC Cripps said: "We believe the role of the special constable is to assist the regular police in times of emergency."

Police Constable Paul Lewis, from Leicestershire, said that his force needed another 44 officers for beat patrols. The announcement of extra police this week by the Government had not included any more men for his force but two weeks ago a recruitment drive for special constables was announced.

at next year's conference.

Sergeant Michael Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police branch, said: "We have no confidence whatsoever in the PCA. As far as the Metropolitan Police are concerned, they seem to be taking over the supervision and management of the force."

The criteria suggested by the authority in assault cases would have meant that in the Holloway van case — where four youths were attacked —

the wrong people would have been prosecuted. In that case, the investigators concentrated on three vanloads of policemen, looking for much of the time at the wrong van.

During the debates yesterday, Sgt Bennett also made a fresh call for changes in the legislation on knives so that police could make more searches on the streets.

He said deaths from knife attacks in London were running at 100 a year, and soon everyone would know someone who had been injured in a knife attack. Since 1986, 70 officers had been stabbed in London.

Sgt Bennett said Parliament was being cowardly over the problem of street searches. He believed that cowardice arose not from anxiety about civil rights pressures, but that it had racial connotations.

Federation officials argued that there was opposition to giving the police greater stop-and-search powers because tensions would rise among ethnic groups in inner-city areas.

The conference was told that officers could soon obtain financial help with civil actions over cases involving perjury, unlawful arrests and conspiracy.

Changes in regulations are being put to the Home Office to allow the federation rules to change for the funding.

Call for less authoritarian approach

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A big shift in police training, to encourage officers to get on better with the law abiding public, was urged in a Home Office report yesterday.

Police training in dealing with people should come before, but not replace learning the facts about law and procedure, the report said.

It was argued that a more questioning approach to learning would encourage more thoughtful and less authoritarian approaches to the job and to the public. "It is inevitable that the police task will always involve a certain amount of conflict, but it is also now generally accepted that the service should strive to minimize that conflict."

It should not be an organization which was authoritarian, unbending and overbearing in its dealings, particularly with those who were law abiding, but a non-authoritarian police officer, who constantly questioned what he and his colleagues were doing would not fit easily into an organization still largely authoritarian and hierarchical in style.

"Unless there is a correspondence between the values and practices taught in training schools and those that are practised and advocated in real-life policing, then the off-mentioned problem will persist of the new recruit arriving at his first station to be told to forget all you learned at

training school, this is real life."

"Trainers can set the tone but most of an officer's career is spent doing the job, and it is life on the division which maintains, or destroys that tone", the report said. From that flowed a need for a closer relationship between training officers and operational policing.

The report said that many constables became cynical about their own organization. They did not experience the "back-up" support and trust which would enable them to operate as professionals.

"Instead they often experience patrol work as labourers at the bottom of a rank

structure which offers few rewards and acknowledgements for wise judgement and responsible action, but plenty of punishment for mistakes. The effectiveness of a truly professional training for police probationers will depend upon the willingness of police organizations at the operational level to reassess the role and status of the patrol constable."

The report has contributions from 19 police and academic experts, responsible for some of the most important recent work in the training field. *New Directions in Police Training: Home Office Research and Planning Unit (Stationery Office, £11.95).*

Royal art goes on show



Guido's Rem's masterpiece, "Cleopatra with the Asp", is one of more than 130 art treasures on display at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. The exhibition, marking the gallery's twenty-fifth anniversary, opens today at 10.30 am (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

Atlantic sailor denies begging

A man who has crossed the Atlantic in both a barrel and on a raft financed his feats through begging in public houses, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

However, when Eric Peters, aged 49, a former fisherman from Littlehampton, West Sussex, approached a customer in a public house in central London, the man turned out to be a policeman who reported him for attempting to deceive people by suggesting he was representing a charity.

He denied attempted theft and having articles for cheat, but was bound over in the sum of £10 to be of good behaviour for two years after the prosecution offered no evidence.

Lost licence

A case of speeding against Lloyd Honeyghan, the welterweight world boxing champion, was adjourned until June 16 yesterday at Ipswich Magistrates' Court, Suffolk, because he has lost his driving licence. He is accused of exceeding a temporary limit on the A12 on April 3.

Crash award

Catherine Adams, aged 16, and her brother Richard, aged 18, of Quinton, Northamptonshire, won £18,132 in damages from their mother in the High Court yesterday. Mrs Joan Adams admitted liability for a motor-accident in which her two children were injured.

Shares charge

A police inspector was yesterday accused of making multiple share applications in BAA. Mr Dennis Riley, of Earlstown, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, was remanded until June 10 by Bow Street magistrates, central London.

Lunch failed to end Meacher dispute

By Robin Young

The hazards of lunching in Soho were outlined in the High Court yesterday, in the libel action Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, is pursuing against *The Observer*.

Mrs Sarah Burton, Mr Meacher's solicitor, told the court that, after publication of an article by Mr Alan Watkins in *The Observer*, she had

advised her client against discussing his complaints over lunch at the Gay Hussar with Mr Tony Howard, deputy editor.

Mr Meacher claims the article suggested that he had exaggerated the modesty of his family background and that he had hounded a former Labour MP, Mr Eric Moonman, out of the party.

Despite Mrs Burton's advice, Mr Meacher had insisted on having the lunch.

In evidence earlier, Mr Meacher told the court that after the luncheon he was satisfied that the foundation for a settlement had been laid.

But when, three weeks later, *The Observer* printed a short correction rather than the apology Mr Meacher had asked for, he was, said Mrs Burton, "furious".

The hearing continues today.

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*Depending on size of TV purchased.

Scarman backs call for reforms in compensation cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Sweeping reforms to enable victims of accidents or of the side-effects of drugs to quickly obtain compensation were called for yesterday by a campaign launched with the backing of Lord Scarman.

The Citizen Action Compensation Campaign (Ciccom), which has the support of a number of MPs and leading personal injuries lawyers, wants a complete overhaul of the way accident claims are dealt with.

In particular it wants judicial inquiries after cases such as that involving the drug Open to deal with the question of blame so that individuals do not have to bring costly and lengthy legal actions.

It also wants a limited form of contingency fee brought in for personal injury cases, under which lawyers would act - as in the United States - on a "no win no fee" basis, accepting cases for nothing and taking costs from any damages awarded. Thirdly, it wants the introduction of class actions so groups of victims could club together and seek compensation jointly.

The group, which is to sponsor a Citizens' Compensation Bill including the

introduced to help people who otherwise would be unable to bring cases.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP and campaigner for the disabled, said he would table a Ten Minute Rule Bill backing the campaign. He hoped a private member's Bill would follow, and Mr Godfrey Bradman, who gave financial backing to the Open plaintiffs, said he would not allow the Citizen Action Campaign to fail for lack of money.

The campaign chairman is Mr Des Wilson, the former Liberal Party president, who launched Citizen Action, the campaign to help the Open claimants. He said yesterday: "We know there is enormous public support for change in this area. We believe there will be support from politicians of all parties and lawyers."

"For the individual, access to our system of justice is prohibitively expensive, justice itself is difficult to obtain and the end result hardly worth the risk and worry. We appear in the end to have a rich man's law."

The campaign comes after the fight by Open claimants to secure compensation for damage allegedly caused by the anti-arthritis drug.

There would be more cases such as the Open and Thalidomide drugs claims in today's high-tech society. "I hope this campaign will put behind learned and reasoned argument for law reform the strength of popular demand."

Lord Scarman is also behind the proposal for looking at contingency fees. He told *The Times* in a recent interview that the time was ripe to look at the system and to see if there was some way it could be

Call for new horse cruelty laws



By John Young

Tara, a liver chestnut mare found abandoned as a yearling starved and suffering from open mud sores, trotted across the Royal Mews behind Buckingham Palace yesterday at the launch of a campaign for new laws to combat ill-treatment of horses. *Horse and Hound* magazine has been joined in its campaign by the British Horse Society and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Many horses were regularly left without food and water, tethered in a cruel manner, and kept in fields which were nothing more than mudbaths, Colonel Nigel Grove White,

director of the British Horse Society, said. In most cases the neglect was due to ignorance. However, cruelty was often apparent at sales and markets, in the conditions in which horses were transported. "We have been concerned for several years about the inability of the courts to deal adequately with persons convicted of cruelty," he said. Mr John Douglass, manager of the RSPCA's farm animal department, said it wanted powers of entry for inspectors, a new offence of "cruelly tethering", and offenders to be banned from owning animals.

Main photograph: Graham Wood

Tara yesterday, top, and in 1983

Sergeant cleared after term in prison

By Craig Seton

A sergeant who was discharged from the Army and imprisoned for allegedly bullying recruits has been cleared of all charges and reinstated to his rank.

The Army Board said the conviction of Sergeant Brian Thomas, aged 29, of the Royal Regiment of Wales, was unsafe and unsatisfactory. He has served a 120-day prison sentence handed down by a court martial last February.

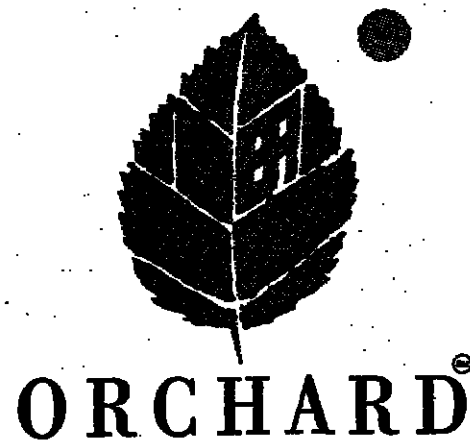
He will rejoin his battalion in West Germany and be paid for his time in prison.

Sergeant Thomas, a married man with two children, from Gwent, South Wales, was convicted of 10 charges over the alleged bullying of recruits at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, where he was a corporal instructor.

He had been cleared of making young recruits call out musical notes as they were hit on their buttocks with a baseball bat. He was convicted of other offences, including hitting recruits with a baseball bat.

The Ministry of Defence said the court martial sentence had been confirmed but Sergeant Thomas had appealed to the Army Board. He had served his prison sentence, with remission, at Pentonville, but the appeal had taken time.

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MIDLAND
The Listening Bank

£132,000 paid for fairground organ

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A mighty fairground organ which once accompanied a merry-go-round and played the first post-war Belgian national anthem in Liege, was bought by Seibu, the Japanese company, for £132,000 at Sotheby's yesterday. It was a world record price for a mechanical musical instrument.

Made by the Limonaire Freres for the 1900 Paris Exposition, it is lavishly decorated with painted curlicues and cherubs. Special effects include flashing lights, drums, cymbals and automations in periwigs and breeches, two of whom strike bells.

Bought in about 1906 by Gustave Renard, a Belgian showman, the organ was hidden behind a wall during the First World War, and brought out, somewhat battered, to play the national anthem on Armistice Day. It was restored in the 1960s.

Other high prices at the dolls, toys, automations and costume sale included £31,900, also paid by Seibu, for a Swiss cylinder musical box. But a black crepe evening gown once worn by the actress Tallulah Bankhead fetched a meagre £440 compared with the £19,800 paid recently for a Marilyn Monroe dress.

Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza paid a record price of DM1 million (£299,408) for a painting by the nineteenth century German artist Eduard Gaertner at Sotheby's Munich on Wednesday evening. Gaertner's "View of the Opernplatz in Berlin", pictured at dusk, had been estimated at up to DM700,000.

As predicted by experts, the

highlight of Christie's Old Masters' sale in Amsterdam was a still life of asparagus, wild strawberries and other fruit in a stone niche by Adrian Coore. It sold within estimate for £414,000 (£115,996) to a London dealer, £140,000 short of the world record for the artist, established last year.

The sale totalled £858,376, with 84 per cent sold.

The Sotheby's series of Hong Kong sales finished on Wednesday, with a grand total of HK\$157.6 million (£10.9 million), 7 per cent unsold. Yesterday the firm held its most successful sale of modern Chinese paintings, totalling more than £1 million.

The top price was £68,276 for "Self-portrait in a Landscape" by Xu Beihong (1895-1953). Showing the artist in plus-fours beneath sinuously painted trees, it is an unusual combination of Eastern and Western styles. It sold to a private collector for double its estimate.

A sentimental painting of a girl with a cat by Antoni Clave fetched the top price of £48,400 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000) at Sotheby's modest post-war and contemporary art sale in London yesterday.

Lucio Fontana's "Concetto Spaziale", an abstract of red geometric shapes on black, sold for £37,400 (within estimate). The sale totalled £825,473, with 16 per cent unsold.

Weekend food prices

Jersey royal new potatoes best buy

Jersey royal potatoes are this week's best vegetable buy, at 25p-40p a lb. They are superb just boiled with mint but make an excellent salad. Other new potatoes available are English 30p-40p, Brittany 20p-32p and Majorcan 20p-35p.

New season English spinach is in the shops at 30p-45p. There are plenty of English cabbages and greens from 17p-35p. Mange touts from Zambia and Guatemala are pricey between £2.30 and £3 but there are South African Moroccan and Spanish mange touts from £1.50. Mushrooms are superb at between 40p and 75p a half lb.

Salads are plentiful with a wide choice of lettuces from 25p a head. Hothouse tomatoes are 50p-75p a lb, cucumbers 25p-55p each, spring onions 20p-40p a bunch and watercress 30p-40p a bunch.

The best-value fruits include southern hemisphere apples at 25p-50p a lb, pears 25p-55p, and a superb selection of grapes from 50p-£1.50. Oranges at 6p-25p each, bananas at 32p-55p a lb, and pineapples from 50p to £3 each are excellent quality. Stone fruit from Spain are apricots 75p-90p a lb, with peaches and nectarines at 26p-38p each.

Fish supplies are good and prices, if changed, are down. There is an abundance of haddock at an average of £2.09 a lb and cod cutlets at about £1.70.

Skate wings are £2.10 and pin hake £1.20. Good quality plaice from the south coast is

about £1.30 a lb for whole fish and to £2.40 for fillets.

Shellfish are in good supply and approximate prices are: crabs £2.10, lobsters £6.50, whelks (out of shell) £1.20 and shrimps 90p, with scallops at 70p each.

Among the exotic varieties at Billingsgate this week are fresh green-tipped mussels from New Zealand retailing at about £3.50 a lb.

Billingsgate holds its open day on Sunday from 12 noon. There will be a fascinating collection of fish on display including barracuda, besugo, barramundi, sheep's head bream and shark. This is an opportunity to see and taste different varieties of fish and seek advice from fish cookery experts.

Most home-produced meat prices are higher this week, even pork which is normally stable. However, new season English lamb is so good it is well worth the extra cost.

Buying whole on the bone is not only cheaper but the meat will have more flavour. Tesco are selling this cut at £1.99 a lb and Sainsbury's the whole shoulder at £1.08 a lb.

Other promotional offers include Asda sirloin steak fresh or frozen at £2.89 a lb, rolled shoulder of pork 69p and whole fresh chicken at 69p a lb.

Tesco braising steak is £1.74 a lb, with fresh pork spare rib chops at 89p. Presto offers fresh pork supremes (boneless) at £1.78, and frozen spare rib chops at 99p. Downwest ground beef is £1.69 a lb, with whole leg of pork at 89p a lb.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Oslo inquiry into heavy water sale

Oslo (Reuters) — Norway, already embarrassed by charges that foreign powers may have used heavy water bought from the country to make atomic bombs, said yesterday that it was investigating the sale of heavy water to Romania.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Oslo had sold 12.5 tonnes of heavy water to Romania in 1986 for use in two atomic reactors due to be completed that year. "But as far as we know, the reactors have not started up and there have been allegations that the water was resold to Israel," he said. This is the third such investigation in two years, one of them already involving Israel. Heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, can be a key ingredient in the manufacture of atomic weapons but is also used in nuclear reactors and scientific research. Norway forbids resale to third parties and says the water must be used only for peaceful purposes.

Jewish fund scandal

Bonn — A Jewish community leader will today be questioned by a senior aide of Chancellor Kohl over a scandal in which another prominent Jew is said to have embezzled more than £10 million from a government fund for compensating Jewish victims of the Nazis (John England writes). Herr Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of the Jews in Germany, confirmed yesterday that his predecessor, Werner Nachmann, who died in January, had diverted the money to his own bank account. Herr Nachmann owned a company which is heavily in debt.

Syrians under fire

Beirut (Reuters) — Areas held by Syrian troops, poised to separate rival Muslim militias in the southern suburbs, came under fire yesterday from pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters in a sharp escalation of the conflict. The Syrian-backed Amal and Hezbollah militias fought for control of the devastated slum area with artillery, mortars and rockets.

The flare-up followed the failure of Syria and Iran to agree on the peaceful deployment of 7,000 Syrian troops to separate the combatants.

Mobile missile deals

Washington — The Pentagon has taken a big step towards its first mobile land-based strategic missile by awarding \$328.7 million (£176.7 million) in contracts to build test versions of railway wagons to carry and fire the MX missile (Mohsin Ali writes). The Air Force announced a contract for \$167 million to Westinghouse Electric to develop the launch railway wagon for the intercontinental ballistic missile by mid-1992. Rockwell International was given a \$161.7 million contract to design a launch-control system for the railway-mounted missile.

Romania delays talks

An important international agreement setting higher standards on human rights and opening the way to East-West cuts in conventional forces is being held up by Romania, the maverick of the Warsaw Pact (Andrew McEwen writes). British diplomats have been told by Eastern bloc sources that objections by Bucharest lie behind a long and hitherto unexplained delay. The 35-nation talks, known as the Vienna Review of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, opened in Vienna in November 1986 and were due to end a year ago.

Sharpeville doubts

Johannesburg (AP) — No decision has been made yet on whether to reopen the trial of the Sharpeville Six, a group of blacks sentenced to death for complicity in a mob killing, says the Justice Department. It said that the Pretoria Supreme Court decision this week to give defence lawyers permission to present arguments for reopening the trial on June 6 could not be described as a reopening.

Succession to dominate Hungary party meeting

From Richard Bassett
Budapest

The Hungarian Communist Party's first conference for more than 30 years begins today in Budapest accompanied by much speculation that it will announce far reaching changes in the country's leadership.

There has been much talk in recent months of the present leader, Mr Janos Kadar, resigning to make way for younger blood. But despite hints from various Hungarian politicians eager to step into Mr Kadar's shoes, there was still only confusion

and uncertainty yesterday as to the content of the three-day meeting.

Though all Budapest has been talking about the succession issue, officials were busy yesterday avoiding any statements which might imply that they were eager for change.

"There is so little information about this conference that I can't help thinking it's a bad beginning for what is supposed to be a grand opening," said Mr Miklas Haraszti, a leading Hungarian dissident.

At a press conference given by the

Network of Free Initiative, an unofficial organization of about 1,300 intellectuals, Mr Haraszti likened the present battle within the party to find a replacement for Mr Kadar to the War of the Spanish Succession.

"The party is obsessed with the succession issue so it will therefore have no time at this conference for any topical discussions," he said.

The Network of Free Initiative has called for sweeping changes in the way Hungary is governed. Among its demands are:

- A new constitution guaranteeing civil political rights;
- A revision of Parliament allowing it to "regain" its legislative powers;
- The granting of rights of association permitting the freedom to take political stands;
- The end of administrative control of the media;
- The right to establish independent trade unions;
- The withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Hungary within the framework of a conventional arms agreement.

"A dangerous man Mr Haraszti. Dangerous and Zionist," was the reaction yesterday of one left-wing intellectual to these demands.

Unlike the Democratic Forum, another unofficial organization that has appeared in recent months, the network does not have very close links with party members. Its demands are seen as "right-wing radicalism" and do not now enjoy widespread support, although this may change as Hungarians become more confident with the loosening of restraints.

Cambodians recall horrors of Pol Pot in 'day of hate'

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The Cambodian people are today celebrating their national Day of Hatred with street parades, religious ceremonies and speeches to remind them of the horrors of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge regime which ruled the country between 1975 and 1979.

This fifth annual festival of loathing has been carefully prepared by the Government with explicit orders to the people to "remember, condemn and more vigorously whip up hatred against the genocidal Pol Pot/eng Sary regime".

The Vietnamese-backed Government of Cambodia has condemned both men to death in their absence as the leaders responsible for "the killing fields" in which hundreds of thousands perished. But the pair are still playing an important role in the resistance to Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Relatives of those killed by the Khmer Rouge are leading today's ceremonies under banners proclaiming solidarity with Moscow. Newspapers, radio and television are presenting new details and statistics of Khmer Rouge atrocities.

Foreign diplomats in Cambodia say this is the biggest Day of Hatred yet because the Government is aware that the memory of the Pol Pot era is fading, and that, for many, Vietnam become the main

enemy. The Government, led by President Heng Samrin, once a prominent figure in the Khmer Rouge, has implicitly acknowledged the effectiveness of the Khmer Rouge and forces of Prince Sihanouk. Recent statements by Phnom Penh also tend to substantiate claims by guerrilla leaders that some government soldiers have switched allegiance.

Vietnam reports about 10 incidents a day involving attacks on railways, roads and installations, but says there are too few guerrillas to seize cities or occupy territory.

It is believed that the Khmer Rouge have 10,000 men inside Cambodia and another 15,000 in reserve on the Thai border. Prince Sihanouk's forces are fewer.

The Americans believe the Vietnamese reduced their forces by 20,000 men last November, leaving 120,000 in the country.

Vietnam has promised to withdraw altogether by 1990, and although some authorities — including Dr Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State — are sceptical, Thailand, the foreign state closest to the conflict, has become more hopeful that Hanoi will honour its pledge.

Ministers and officials say that economic problems at home and pressure from Moscow will force the Vietnamese out.

Four men, including one employee of the First National Bank of Chicago, were arrested by the FBI on Wednesday after bank officials tracked down huge electronic transfers from the accounts of three big corporations — Merrill Lynch, the New York-based stock-brokers, United Airlines and Brown-Forman, a Kentucky

wine and spirits company. Police are hunting for three other suspects on charges of conspiracy.

Mr Tony Zehnder, a spokesman for the Chicago bank, said: "This has to be one of the biggest reported electronic thefts."

It was only when rumours of a Merrill Lynch loss flashed around Wall Street that the bank issued a statement revealing the computer hijack.

According to banking sources, the would-be embezzlers were caught thanks to their greed. If they had pulled less money out of the accounts, they would have avoided arousing sus-

Two die in Kuwait booby-trapped car



The wreckage of the booby-trapped car which exploded near the Kuwait Airways headquarters in Kuwait on Wednesday, killing its two passengers. The Government said the two were terrorists who planned to park the car near the headquarters.

£38 million computer theft thwarted

From Charles Bremner, New York

A gang of sophisticated swindlers spirited \$70 million (£38 million) out of a Chicago bank account and were close to sending the money to Vienna when the FBI stepped in this week and halted the world's biggest reported electronic theft.

Four men, including one employee of the First National Bank of Chicago, were arrested by the FBI on Wednesday after bank officials tracked down huge electronic transfers from the accounts of three big corporations — Merrill Lynch, the New York-based stock-brokers, United Airlines and Brown-Forman, a Kentucky

picion. According to police, and details from the bank, a relatively junior bank employee wired funds from the three company accounts in Chicago to Citibank and Chase Manhattan bank accounts in New York late last week.

He is alleged to have set up accounts with Vienna banks which correspond with the New York institutions. In the case of Merrill Lynch, the gang impersonated the voices of two of the brokerage firm's officials who were authorized to approve transfers.

One of the officials was in California at the time and the other was in hospital. On Monday, the bank contacted Merrill Lynch about a sudden overdraft of between \$20 and \$30 million dollars in its local account.

The employee, Mr Otis Wilson, aged 29, was arrested when he turned up for work on Wednesday morning, and the other arrests followed. The money has been returned to Chicago.

The ease with which the thieves were able to steal millions of dollars is likely to produce calls for more stringent security in the computerized banking networks.

turned down a one approach from Bunzi at £20p a share in 1986, has for the second year running reported a downturn in profits.

Results for the year ended December show a pretax profit of £11.55 million against £12.59 million in 1986.

But the figures, issued yesterday, show a sharp increase in acquisitions in mainland Europe.

The latest figures show that their enthusiasm for the United States also remains undiminished.

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US convicts cocaine cartel magnate

Jacksonville (Reuter) — Carlos Lehder Rivas, the Colombian drug boss, was found guilty in Florida yesterday on all the charges against him of smuggling a total of more than three tonnes of cocaine into the United States during 1979 and 1980.

The jury convicted Lehder, a reputed leader of Colombia's Medellín drug-trafficking cartel, and his co-defendant, Jack Reed, after seven days of deliberations following a trial that had lasted more than 7½ months.

Lehder displayed no reaction as the jury foreman read out the guilty verdict on all charges.

The jury immediately began hearing arguments for the forfeiture of Lehder's assets, which include about half of Norman's Cay, an island in the Bahamas through which he smuggled cocaine from Colombia to the US.

The property is liable to forfeiture under his conviction on the charge of operating a continuing criminal enterprise. He faces a total sentence of life imprisonment plus 150 years on the four charges.

Reed faces a 15-year maximum term on a single charge of importing cocaine.

Lawyers for the stocky Lehder, aged 38, did not present any witnesses during the weeks of testimony.

Many of the Government's witnesses had been convicted of trafficking or admitted that they were drug traffickers who worked with Lehder.

The jury — eight women and four men — asked on Wednesday to review tapes of interviews conducted by Colombian and Spanish television with Lehder before his extradition to the United States in February, 1987.

In the taped interviews Lehder admitted on the one hand that he saw drugs as

New York (Reuter) — Police have arrested nine men who tried to smuggle \$80 million (about \$44 million) worth of Colombian cocaine to the fashionable summer holiday area on Long Island. A police spokesman said 1,200 lb of the drug were discovered in an executive jet, which had been under surveillance, when it made an emergency landing at Miami after developing engine trouble on a flight from Colombia. After federal agents arrested the pilot and seized the drugs, they allowed the bogus shipment to proceed to New York, where eight suspects were arrested.

"weapons against North American imperialism", but denied being a drug trafficker because "a person cannot be a drug trafficker until his crime has been proven".

Lehder was charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, conspiracy to import, importation, and operating a continuing criminal enterprise.

In a separate Miami indictment, Lehder is accused of being one of the leaders of the feared Medellín cartel, which

was said by prosecutors to be responsible for up to 80 per cent of the cocaine imported into the United States.

Depicted variously as charming, vicious and a good organization man, Lehder was described by Mr Robert Merkle, the US attorney, as the brains behind the distribution of cartel cocaine.

He is also said to have threatened that any judge or jury that convicted him would be executed. The foreman of the jury chose to be identified by his juror number rather than by name.

The security around the federal courtroom in the US Post Office building here became less visible as the case progressed. When the trial began, the area around the building took on the appearance of an armed camp with police and US marshals carrying automatic weapons while patrolling adjacent streets and car parks and standing guard on the building's roof.

As the trial wore on, security was restricted to the building and to Lehder, who has been housed in a special cell in the city jail, where he was allowed special exercise equipment and unlimited phone calls.

An avowed antagonist of the United States, he was described by Mr Merkle as seeing cocaine as "the wave of the future in the United States" which he viewed as demoralized following Watergate and the Vietnam War.



The drugs baron: Carlos Lehder piloting a boat in Colombia's Eastern Plains region while on the run in 1984. He was captured and extradited to the United States in February, 1987.

Rise and fall of the legendary crazy Carlitos

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Early on in his trial in Jacksonville, Florida, Carlos Enrique Lehder Rivas heard the prosecutor describe him as "a man who wanted to be cocaine what Henry Ford was to automobiles".

Not quite true, even though Lehder has never lacked ambition. With his much keener sense of American history, the Colombian drug racketeer rightly saw himself in the tradition of another ruthless contraband entrepreneur — Joseph Kennedy. After all, had not the patriarch of the Kennedy clan made his fortune from bootleg liquor during Prohibition? So why should certain Colombian "businessmen" be condemned for satisfying US demand for cocaine and marijuana?

After all, was it not — a popular but disputable claim in Colombia this — President John Kennedy's Peace Corps members who first encouraged campesinos to cultivate the coca plant commercially?

In the early 1980s such arguments featured regularly in a smartly-produced giveaway weekly newspaper in his home town of Armenia, capital of the coffee-rich Quindío department. *Quindío Libre* was the organ of a neo-Nazi movement founded by Lehder, the son of a German immigrant father and a Colombian mother.

Although it propagated a bewildering mix of fascist, revolutionary and anti-Yankee propaganda, with doses of

Sir Lynden Findling, Nassau was rocked by drugs scandal. philosophical twaddle from 1960s hippie culture, its main platform to repeal a 1979 Bogotá-Washington extradition treaty specifically designed to bring international drug traffickers, like Lehder, to justice.

Traumatized by death threats from "los narcotraficantes", the Colombian Supreme Court last June declared the pact unconstitutional, but that was five months too late for Lehder, captured and swiftly extradited to the US in February 1987. Of the 15 *cargos* handed over to US justice under the treaty, Lehder's scalp was by far the most prized by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

By the end he probably ranked only fourth or fifth in the corporate hierarchy of the Medellín cartel, the drug cabal centred on Colombia's second-biggest city, which controls 80 per cent of the world's cocaine business, according to the DEA.

Yet he is widely considered the cartel's pioneer, the first drug trafficker to switch from smuggling marijuana to cocaine on the rationale that the latter could become the mass drug of the proletariat of the 1980s, like the former was in the 1970s. Until the turn of the decade cocaine had been an exclusive high society drug.

Lehder, who made his fortune from marijuana, had the cynical foresight to realize that more money was to be made from cocaine by slashing the street price and swamping US cities with "coke". "Forget the yuppies, we go for the ghettos," he argued.

Crucial to that strategy, Lehder and his cronies, fugitive US financier Robert Vesco, in 1979 invested in the purchase of Norman's Cay in the Bahamas which became a bridgehead for ferrying South

American cocaine across the Caribbean to Florida. His "tourism development" as he himself called it ended in 1982, when Norman's Cay was invaded by a small army of DEA agents.

Two years later, Lehder's name figured prominently in the Royal Commission inquiry into the drug-trafficking and corruption scandal which rocked the Nassau Government of Sir Lynden Findling. In the Bahamas Lehder, liked to be addressed as "Joe". "Call me Joe," he would say before going into his spiel about Joe Kennedy and Prohibition: "He dealt in booze. I deal in coke, what's the difference, brother?"

His rise and fall read like a classic Hollywood gangster film except that a screenwriter would surely feel obliged to tone down the preposterous and fantastic real life saga.

He was always the most eccentric, flamboyant and outspoken member of the Medellín cartel. Most of Colombia's racketeers were already extremely prosperous *contrabandistas* before the *marijuana* bonanza of the late 1970s, when Colombia was the source of 90 per cent of the "pot" consumed in the US. From smuggling in contraband cars, drinks, cigarettes and betanex, they merely switched to smuggling out "Colombian gold".

Lehder had started much more humbly. In the early 1970s, he was an impoverished illegal immigrant in the US and a small-time hood on the streets of New York. He was eventually deported after being convicted of stealing cars and street-dealing in marijuana.

He left with a burning ambition to make his fortune and a passion for the music of the Beatles. He quickly built up a fleet of planes and became an ace pilot, often flying drug-smuggling missions into Florida, while boisterously singing along to Beatles cassettes in the cockpit. It was the start of the gang-bro legend of "crazy Carlitos" who, unlike the more cautious cartel executives, delighted in taking risks.

He also delighted in publicity. He campaigned openly against the extradition treaty. In the town of Armenia he headed out crisp \$50 bills in the street to ensure big attendances at rallies for his political movement.

"Make love not war," he would glibly tell journalists. Then he would switch to another of his idols — Hitler,



Sir Lynden Findling, Nassau was rocked by drugs scandal.



Robert Vesco: Invested in a Bahamian bridgehead.

"the greatest warrior the world has ever seen". Then, the next moment, he would liken himself to Che Guevara and rage against "US imperialism".

There have always been rumours that Lehder's capture was the result of a tip-off from his cartel colleagues who were never comfortable with his bizarre personality and considered him dangerous. According to this version, he was betrayed because he refused to respect the cartel's desire for consensus and his private life gave offence. Alone among the "Colombian Mafia" he not only traded in drugs, he used them.

"I prefer a tomb in Colombia to a prison cell in the US," he once said. For Lehder the sentence he faces — probably life — will be a living death.

Church visit off

Athens — Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians worldwide, has called off his trip to Moscow to take part in next month's celebrations marking the 1,000th anniversary of Russian Christianity (A Correspondent writes). Church officials here said that moves by Pimen, the Russian Orthodox Patriarch — including his insistence that leaders of the Russian Orthodox churches in the US and Japan participate in a special service led by patriarchs — could be seen as an attempt to undermine Patriarch Dimitrios' position.

Hijackers free Court victory

Taipei (AFP) — Two Chinese men who hijacked a commercial airliner from the mainland to Taiwan last week were conditionally released after appearing in court here. They have been granted political asylum.

Train crash

Warsaw (Reuter) — An undisclosed number of people were killed when a Polish military transport train crashed in the town of Pila, the PAP news agency said.

Gulf attack

Dubai (Reuter) — Iranian gunboats attacked a Norwegian tanker, *Berge Strand*, in the Gulf, and wounded a member of the crew.

Istanbul blast

Istanbul (AFP) — Ten people were injured, two seriously, when a time-bomb exploded at a bus terminal in the European side of the city, police said.

Air disaster

Taipei (AFP) — Five people were killed when a Taiwan air force trainer jet crashed into Ah Lin village in southern Taiwan.

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Moscow change on EEC clears way for pact with Comecon

From Richard Owen, Brussels

After intense pressure from Bonn, which is currently in the EEC chair, the European Community and Comecon, its Eastern counterpart, yesterday achieved a breakthrough in their stalled negotiations on mutual recognition. Following three days of talks, negotiators here agreed a compromise formula on the status of West Berlin, opening the way for diplomatic recognition of the EEC by Moscow for the first time since the Community was founded more than 30 years ago. Diplomats said an historic joint declaration would be initialled early next month, probably in the Soviet capital. Until the rise to power of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev three years ago the Soviet Union had dismissed the EEC as a capitalist club and the political arm of Nato. But Moscow has come to view the EEC as a cohesive political and economic body with a world role. The change in Soviet policy partly stems from the approach of the single European market in 1992, which will further strengthen EEC integration, and partly from Mr Gorbachev's desire to develop links with Western Europe.

The Soviet leader proposed formal links with the EEC shortly after taking power, observing that Russians and West Europeans had a "common home" in Europe. EEC officials have negotiated cautiously, insisting that EEC-Comecon links must not impair Community ties with individual Soviet bloc countries or be used to increase the Soviet grip on Eastern Europe. During the talks in Brussels this week, Comecon officials conceded that the proposed joint declaration could contain a clause — common to all EEC treaties with third parties — making clear that EEC territory is that defined by the Treaty of Rome. Although Berlin is not specifically mentioned, this is taken to include West Berlin, as part of West Germany. To meet Comecon objections, the declaration will carry a Comecon footnote stating that the EEC-Comecon treaty does not affect the 1971 four-power agreement on Berlin. EEC officials said they had no objection to what was in effect a face-saving device. West Germany places a high priority on closer East-West relations in Europe, and has been anxious to achieve an EEC-Comecon agreement before it relinquishes the EEC presidency on July 1. Final pressure for a deal was exerted by Herr Martin Bangemann, the West German Economics Minister, during talks in Moscow earlier this week. Diplomats said the EEC-Comecon deal would have to be ratified by the EEC Council of Ministers, and could be presented to the EEC summit in Hanover at the end of next month.

● STRASBOURG: The European Parliament yesterday condemned "flagrant violations of democratic rights" in Turkey and called on the Turkish Government to release 69 people arrested during May Day celebrations, (AP reports).

The Parliament noted in its resolution that the violent dispersion of people attending a banned wreath-laying celebration on May Day in Istanbul was a "sign of the Turkish Government's lack of determination to bring about significant improvements with regard to respect for human rights and basic freedoms".

Nicaraguan censorship angers the opposition

From Roland Rudd, Managua

Nicaragua's 14 opposition parties issued a joint communiqué yesterday, accusing the Sandinista Government of deliberately flouting the regional accord engineered by President Arias of Costa Rica less than a year after it was signed to link peace in Central America with human rights improvements.

A key feature of the pact concerned the democratization of Nicaragua, including the need for a free press.

The Government in Managua partially complied with this requirement by rescinding the state of emergency and allowing the virulently anti-Sandinista paper, *La Prensa*, to reopen without censorship.

But other laws remain involving the media, including one from the early days of the revolution which was re-activated last week.

The legislation prevents the press and the radio from reporting on the increasingly desperate economic situation and the war with the Contras.

Nicaragua's opposition parties, from communist to conservative, gathered outside the offices of the centre Social Democratic Party (PSD) to issue their most withering attack on the new "insidious form of press censorship".

Managua defends the law on two counts: in the face of severe food rationing, any "speculation" about the deteriorating economic situation could create widespread panic among the population, and no country at war allows the



President Ortega of Nicaragua addressing a ceremony to commemorate the birthday of General Agusto Sandino, the father of the Sandinista movement. The President, watched by his wife, accused a group of 24 US congressmen of having an "imperialistic mentality" and denied that Managua planned to attack the Contras once their American aid was exhausted.

dissemination of sensitive material.

The communiqué, hailed as an historic agreement by the splintered opposition groups, states: "The threat by the Government against press freedom constitutes a dangerous violation of the liberty of thought and expression and of the right of the Nicaraguan people to be reliably informed."

characterizing the Sandinistas yet one more time as systematic violators of human rights".

Señor Guillermo Potóy, the president of the PSD, said that the Arias plan stipulated complete liberty of television, radio and press, which would be open to all opposition groups without censorship. "But this is not happening."

The situation in Nicaragua is deteriorating each day, and our only hope now lies with international pressure.

The reason for the opposition party's sensitivity to the latest restriction on press freedom was underlined by Señor Gilberto Cuadra, the president of Cosep, the umbrella organization for private enterprise.

"In a country with widespread illiteracy and poor communications, access to the radio is the key. Restrictions on newspapers, which are not widely read outside Managua, are not so important."

"But if you cannot report on the economic or war situation on radio, you are effectively censored."

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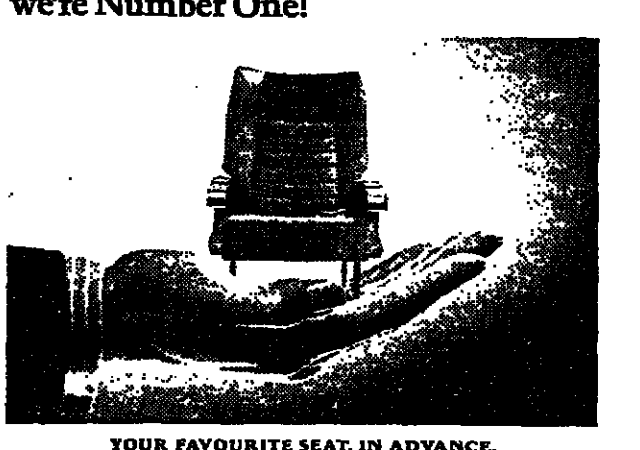
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Palestinian uprising

Strange kind of quiet in Gaza

From Ian Murray, Gaza

"The Gaza Strip is reported quiet." Israel Radio intoned its daily round-up of events in the occupied territories. It was a strange kind of quietness.

Tyres were burning across the main road leading into the town, forcing cars to crawl along the sand beside it, giving the boys with stones plenty of time to hit any foolishly Israeli-licensed car going through.

The shops were "quiet" and shutters, as they have been for much of the past five months. The Anglican-run Ahli Arab hospital was "quiet" with, for the first time in weeks, no "beaten by soldiers" admissions recorded in its casualty book. The soldiers were "quiet", resting from the heat by their vehicles or behind the huge earthworks around their tented towns.

In the past five and a half months the Palestinians have made the Arab areas into places where civilian Israelis fear to go, with 9,000 troops now needed to maintain the "quiet" where only 500 were deployed at the beginning.

It is "quiet" because the "intifada" (uprising) is settling down to a routine, in which violence, curfews, electricity cuts, imprisonment and the abnormal have become a part of everyday life. The 635,000 Gazans are digging in for what they believe is an inevitable victory and are adapting their lives to cope with siege conditions. They are growing vegetables in pots and on waste ground and building clay ovens like those their grandparents used.

Jabaliyah camp, where it all began on December 9 as troops opened fire on a demonstration, was under curfew yet again this week. Many have become so defiant that they risked being shot and beaten to go to the mosque on Monday morning. Troops moved in, killing one, wounding others and beating many.

In Shifa hospital a 16-year-old boy called Adnan was limping on makeshift crutches, clearly proud that he had been hit in the upper thigh by a high velocity rifle bullet outside the mosque that morning. "I have been beaten, I have been in prison for 15 days, now I have been shot. But I want a free Palestine... and when ever there is a demonstration I will still take part in it."

A 17-year-old girl lay in bed with a huge bandage over her chin. She could not move her jaw to talk but her aunt described how soldiers dragged her from the house by her hair, threw her to the ground and hung a stone on her face.

In adjacent beds were two sisters from Beach camp, both with bandages on their faces. The 19-year-old said soldiers burst into their home on Monday morning to drag the elder brother from his hiding place under her bed. As her brother was dragged out she ran screaming after him and, from a few yards away, a soldier opened fire. She was hit beside the eye with the bullet ricocheting on and wounding her 13-year-old sister in the face. "Muhammad" from Beit Hissas lay on

his back with both arms in plaster, his chin in bloody bandages, his face stitched together. He too had defied the curfew to go to the mosque. His family said tear gas was fired inside forcing everyone out. They said he was dragged to a military vehicle, beaten first with batons, then with a car jack, his face kicked and then he was dumped in a large, communal dustbin and had his arms broken.

Not all the stories of atrocities are true. In Ahli hospital a 10-year-old boy told the American folk singer Jean Baez on Tuesday that he received his very severe burns when soldiers dumped him on to a blazing tyre. In fact, he was probably the victim of a household accident. But, as the hospital gives free treatment for those injured by the soldiers and charges other patients, the atrocity story was spread about.

Dr Torben Jorgensen, a Danish surgeon at the hospital, said he knew of at least five cases of boys who had been burned in this way. About 1,000 casualties of the intifada have been treated since, according to him, the beatings have been growing worse. "In the early months it was intended to discourage people. More and more it is becoming a sort of punishment. Individuals are not beaten four or five times but up to 200 times."

He calculates that there have been anything from 15,000 to 25,000 people needing hospital treatment in the occupied territories since the start of the uprising, with thousands of others avoiding hospitals for fear of being arrested. This compares with official Israeli figures of 1,400 wounded by gunshots. There are no official figures for beatings or tear gas victims.

Meanwhile, the organiza-

tion of everyday life appears to be more and more under the control of the underground leadership of the uprising. Apart from issuing orders about shop opening hours, it is developing a kind of self-help community. Families of those in prison or in hospital are given food. People are being encouraged to grow their own vegetables and are taught how to withstand curfews.

"We are not only stone-throwers," said Rami, a Bir Zeit university student who three months ago expressed no political views at all. "The uprising is not only stones. It is a new kind of life for the people."

As part of its strategy to win back control, the Israeli military authority is now issuing new identity cards which are only granted to those who can show they have paid their taxes and are not wanted by the police. Those who have received the new red cards — essential to work and to avoid arrest — say that they are first questioned at length about everything they know.

"For the first time I can remember the Israelis really do not seem to know what is going on," said one businessman. "Intifada has put an end to collaboration and we are all working together to end the occupation."

مكتبة مصر، الإسكندرية

Aftermath of Golden Temple siege

Police herald surrender as boost in war on extremists

From Michael Hamlyn, Amritsar

The stench of death swirled around the Golden Temple of Amritsar yesterday as Indian Red Cross volunteers gingerly brought out the bodies of those killed in the siege of the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion.

Immediately after the corpses of one woman, three men and a dog were driven away, a dust storm darkened the sky and covered the once-shining marble walkways with a fine layer of grit. As it did so, a group of explosives experts, accompanied by members of the temple management staff and senior figures from other Sikh institutions, went inside.

The explosives experts were to hunt for booby traps and other weapons while the Sikh dignitaries were there to ensure that Sikh properties were adhered to during the search. A main area of interest is the Harimandir, the gilded holy of holies, where at least one more body is said to be lying.

A magistrate also accompanied them to compile an inventory of the items found in the cloister surrounding the Amrit Sarovar, the Pool of Nectar, from which this city takes its name.

As the search continued, Mr K. P. S. Gill, the tall, grey-

bearded Sikh who commands Punjab's police forces, declared that the successful end to the siege in which 46 Sikh extremists finally surrendered had vastly helped in the struggle against Sikh terrorism in the state.

He said that three units of the Khalistan Commando Force, one of the most active extremist groups, had been hit hard by the capture of leaders or senior cadre members. But three other units remained almost intact. Two units of the Khalistan Liberation Force — a rival faction — had been "more or less neutralized", he said, but three others "were not much affected by this particular surrender".

Mr Gill told a press conference, called at the police station in the walled city close to the Golden Temple, that interrogation of the people who surrendered had so far revealed a gradual upgrading of the quality and quantity of weapons supplied to the gangs from neighbouring Pakistan.

He said that the arms had been smuggled into the temple in lorries carrying supplies for the rebuilding of the parts of the shrine damaged in the army assault in 1984; in vehicles belonging to the tem-

ple management committee and in lorries carrying food to the free-meal kitchens.

The sense of relief among the citizens of Amritsar that the siege is finally over is palpable. Hindus, especially those I met in the pilgrims' rest house at the city's largest Hindu temple, were encouraged that so many extremists had been taken off the streets.

The temple is itself a 1925 copy of the Golden Temple, with a holy of holies built into the centre of a rectangular pool. The rest house is now home to 350 refugees who have fled their villages after their lives were threatened, or after relatives were killed, by the extremists.

But Sikhs also expressed relief, especially those who had suffered extortion at the hands of the militants. They particularly rejoiced at the demise of Mr Surjit Singh Penta, who swallowed cyanide. He had been relentless in his pursuit of donations of hundreds of thousands of rupees, and had compiled dossiers on the financial worth of hundreds of wealthy citizens.

Mr Gill drew attention to the fact that the people who

surrendered were in possession of "quite a lot of money", though he would not specify how much. He insisted that the cash had been acquired "as a result of extortion".

He also reported that those interrogated so far had spoken of "acute discussions among the different groups and serious differences of opinion on extorting money". Despite this, Mr Gill said, certain groups had continued to extort money.

● DELHI: Nineteen people were killed in Punjab yesterday and seven suspected Sikh militants were arrested, the Press Trust of India said (AFP reports).

Quoting police reports, the Press Trust also said that two policemen were injured in Khara Majha village, Jalandhar district, when two police parties opened fire mistaking each other for Sikh militants. Seven suspected extremists were arrested in various raids in the district, the police said.

Security troops fired on a group who had crossed the border from Pakistan near Fatepur, killing three, the police added.

Paris signals Nouméa rethink

By Our Foreign Staff

The new French minister responsible for New Caledonia, M. Olivier Stirr, called yesterday for an end to "the colonial situation" in the Pacific archipelago and the abolition of its statute, which is deemed too favourable to the settler community.

His views, published in the provincial daily *Ouest France*, came as an official six-man conciliation mission was heading to New Caledonia to try to revive negotiations with indigenous Kanaks and ease tensions after recent violence.

M. Stirr, who is expected to fly to the archipelago, said land and tax measures could be introduced and new regional institutions brought in last year by the conservative former French Government should be abolished.

Mr Bill Hayden, the visiting Australian Foreign Minister and frequently a critic of French policy in the Pacific, yesterday voiced full support for the new Socialist Government's plans for the future of New Caledonia, and said he was confident it would "bridge the differences".

The existing statute was introduced after a referendum in which the settler majority voted against independence from France, and was designed to curb the power of the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in the provinces.

The leader of New Caledonia's settler community, M. Jacques Lafleur, a neo-Gaullist deputy, said M. Stirr's



M. Kapore, accused of leading a Kanak attack, being escorted to a Nouméa court yesterday.

remarks had got the conciliation mission off to a bad start. However, M. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, the FLNKS leader, has welcomed the mission. Meanwhile, police in Nouméa

yesterday arrested M. Chancel Kapore, a senior member of the FLNKS accused of leading an attack on a barracks on April 22 in which four paratrooper gendarmes were

killed, and which triggered a hostage crisis which lasted until May 5. In the Melanesian quarter of Nouméa, a bomb exploded, slightly injuring four Kanaks.

Lee determined to keep tight grip on dissent

From Gavin Bell, Singapore

Tomorrow marks a special day in the life of Mr Vincent Cheng. He will then have spent precisely one year in the custody of Singapore's Internal Security Department, on suspicion of being a communist subversive.

The vast majority of Singaporeans do not appear to care about Mr Cheng, or his political beliefs, or that he has not been brought to trial and may be detained indefinitely. If they consider him at all, they probably regard him as a fool for throwing away the benefits of a prosperous, ostensibly caring and well-ordered society.

Mr Cheng's plight and the public apathy towards him illustrate the Jekyll and Hyde character of the island republic after almost three decades of continuous rule by Mr Lee Kuan Yew and his People's Action Party.

For most of its citizens, it is a model of progress for Third World countries. For those

recent newspaper article, he quoted from an impassioned plea for an open society where men might freely preach novel, unorthodox ideas on the basis of what was right and just.

The speaker denounced closed societies in which the mass media "feed men's minds with a constant drone of sycophantic support for a particular orthodox philosophy". The speaker was Mr Lee, a few months before leading Singapore to full independence in 1965.

Mr Seow argued that the Prime Minister has abandoned his earlier principles, stifling freedom of speech and mining the political arena with legal booby traps to maim his opponents.

"The aging captain has developed obsessions that increasingly threaten the hard-won social and political stability of Singapore," he said.

Mr Seow added: "Obsessive fixations, a political self-righteousness, the arrest and re-arrest without trial of well-educated social activists... have all served to sour public opinion."

Shortly after submitting the article to a Hong Kong-based newspaper on May 6, Mr Seow presented applications for habeas corpus on behalf of two detainees.

A few hours after that, he was detained himself under the sweeping powers of the Internal Security Act.

He is still being questioned about alleged foreign interference in Singapore's affairs, notably by a senior US diplomat who was expelled last week on charges of inciting political opposition.

The accusation was firmly rejected by Washington, but the unprecedented move created alarm in diplomatic circles accustomed to consulting opposition figures as part of their normal duties.

Further disclosures about the diplomat's alleged activities are anticipated, but they are not expected to produce anything other than momentary friction in a relationship based on important strategic and economic ties.

Unease in Singapore and overseas about the liberal use of the Internal Security Act has been heightened by the apparent impotence of the courts to challenge it.

The essence of the Government's powers of indefinite detention is contained in section 7A(4) of the Internal Security Act, which states that anyone detained under the section "shall be deemed to be in lawful custody".

The source said the Act was based on British wartime regulations that were introduced to deal with emergency conditions that no longer pertained. The only recourse of its present-day victims was to appeal to the Privy Council in London, he said.

The Government has endorsed the use of "psychological pressure... to break down the defences which every detainee builds around himself, and uncover the truth that every guilty suspect wishes to conceal".

Another cause for concern are apparent attempts at thought control.

The distribution of foreign publications deemed to be meddling in the island's affairs is frequently restricted.



Mr Lee: Opposition accuses him of ruling repressively.

who demand greater political freedom and respect for civil rights, it is a repressive police state verging on an Orwellian nightmare.

A recent wave of detentions and re-arrests of dissidents, leading to a bitter diplomatic row with the United States, has brought the conflict into the open and focused unwelcome international attention on Mr Lee's city-state.

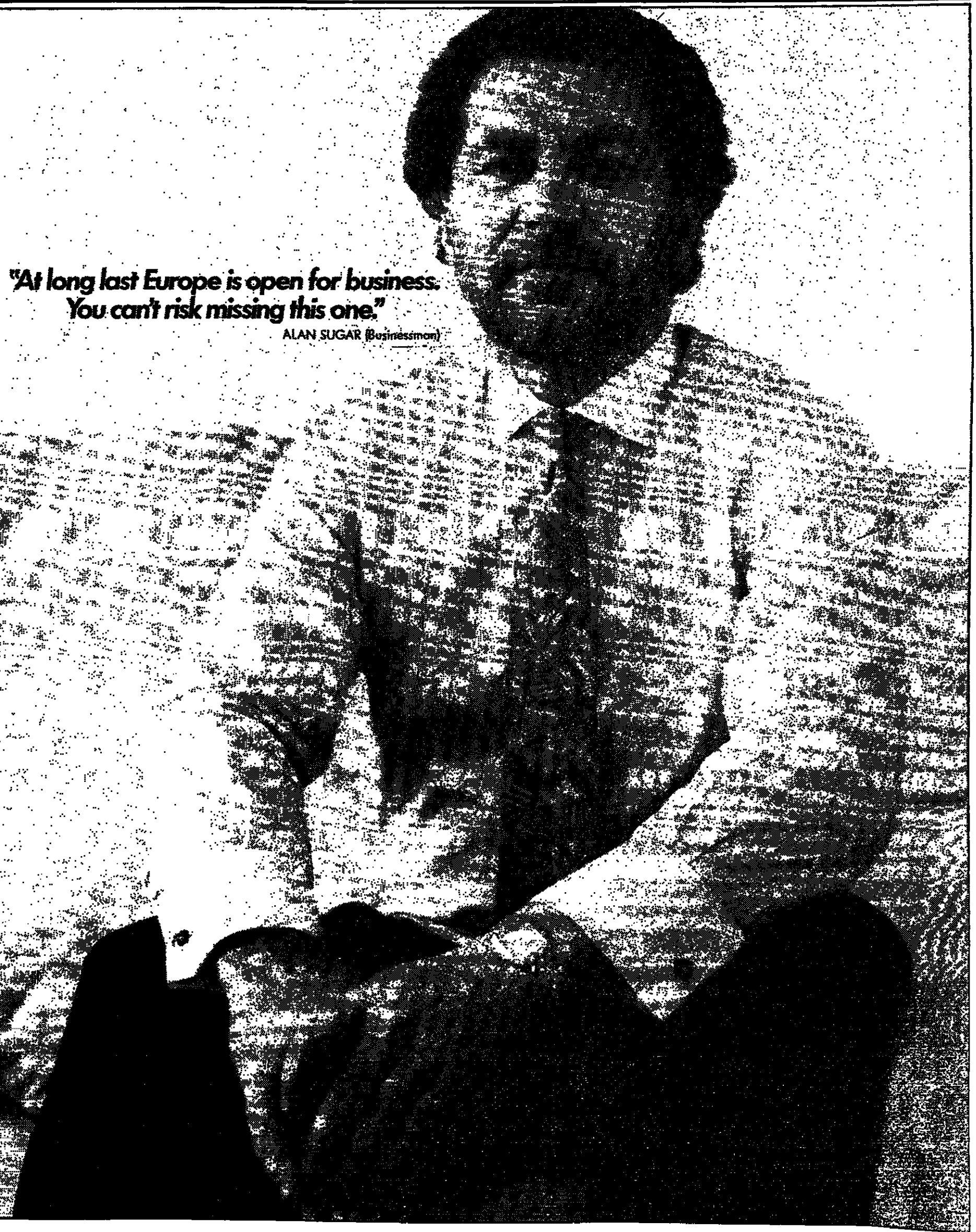
His Government's consistent view has been that Singapore is vulnerable to political and racial agitation, and cannot afford the luxury of liberal Western concepts of democracy — and subversives who threaten its hard-won political stability and economic success should be placed in "preventive detention" until they mend their ways.

His critics argue that the crackdown amounts to ruthless politics, aimed at crushing challenges to an entrenched elite. They believe it may presage early general elections in which, with many potential opposition candidates detained or cowed, Mr Lee risks only a negative protest vote.

Certainly the respect, affection and fear engendered by the Prime Minister act as a powerful deterrent to his rivals, and it seems unlikely that he will retire when he reaches the age of 65 in September.

A minister confirmed for the first time yesterday that the Government was drafting legislation to create an executive presidency — a post which Mr Lee will undoubtedly fill, as it was his idea.

One prominent dissident who had been considering standing in the next elections is Mr Francis Seow, a former Solicitor-General and President of the Law Society. In a



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May 19 1988

PARLIAMENT

Renton assures House on Rees-Mogg post

Sir William Rees-Mogg is to receive £30,000 a year as chairman of the new Broadcasting Standards Council. Mr. Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, told the Commons during question time.

Mr. Elliot Morley (Glanford and Scunthorpe, Lab), who opened the exchanges, said that the Home Secretary had told the House that the new council would not interfere with the political or current affairs content of programmes, but would restrict itself to standards of decency.

There was considerable concern that this body would be duplicating what was already being done and that the council had been set up simply so that the Government could manipulate it.

The Government already had the power in the past. Could the House have a categorical assurance that the broadcasting authorities would be free to comment as they saw fit?

Mr. Renton said that of course broadcasters would be free to comment as they saw fit. They had already commented on the setting up of the council and made their views known, as was their democratic right.

When Mr. Hurd had announced the setting up of the council he had said that its remit was strictly confined to the questions of sex and violence and standards of taste and decency.

On the question of whether these powers could be added to or diminished, the role of the

MEDIA

council would be debated in the House in the course of future legislation and at that time Mr. Renton would be able to add to or diminish its powers.

Mr. Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said that many parents were angry about the diet of pornography, near-pornography and violence which was fed to their children on practically a nightly basis. They were fed up with the whining and whingeing of the broadcasting authorities who had been given plenty of opportunity to put their houses in order and had deliberately refused to do so.

Mr. Renton agreed. He said that it was because of that that

It has been rather difficult to portray Sir William as a gaulter or a vandal

The Government had made its commitment in the election manifesto to bring forward broadly structured and effective arrangements to reflect that concern. That was what the Government was now doing.

"I hope that the existence of the new council may in fact prove to be the cure to the disease, and if that is so, the very setting up of it will prove to have been a well worthwhile exercise indeed."

Mr. Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that he was sure that the Prime Minister

wanted to make the BBC as fair and impartial as *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*. How long would the new council remain on a non-statutory basis and how much was Sir William Rees-Mogg to be paid as chairman of this censorship body?

Mr. Renton said that it was wrong to call the council a censorship body. It would reflect and receive complaints from the public on questions of taste and decency. Mr. Banks and his constituents would surely be pleased that there would be a body to look at such complaints.

The chairman would receive a salary of £30,000 a year. The council had been set up on a non-statutory basis so that it could begin work straight away. If legislation was needed, that would be incorporated into a major broadcasting Bill, which would be brought before Parliament in due course.

Earlier, Mr. Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood, C) said that the Home Secretary should tell the chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the BBC that those who broadcast to the nation were part of the nation and not an elitist super-race apart.

It was then who were the censors and the new council would serve as a vital test of accountability which was badly needed.

One of the best ways to ensure such accountability would be the appointment of Mrs. Mary Whitehouse.

Mr. Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said that he thought that Mrs. Whitehouse's role in all this had been well recognized. It had been rather difficult to portray Sir William

as a gaulter or a vandal.

"I think that as the waves subside he will be able to get on with the broadcasting authorities working out how the council will work in practice. Then we in this House can judge what the statutory definition and powers should be."

Mr. Menzies Campbell, SLD spokesman on broadcasting, asked Mr. Hurd to congratulate the chairman of the IBA and the BBC on the high standards of their programmes. He should promise to support them to ensure that their independence was not compromised.

Mr. Hurd said that when the White Paper on television was published, probably not now until the autumn, Mr. Campbell would see the huge change proposed for television in the form of the extension of choice. The Government's aim was to make that wider choice available while keeping a grip on standards.

Mr. Peter Stanbrook (Orpington, C) asked whether in the light of the one-sided account given of the Gibraltar incident by the two authorities, Mr. Hurd was satisfied that they had served the public interest. Could there be a review as to who should determine the public interest rather than nominated people and programme makers who had not been elected?

Mr. Hurd said that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had made clear that he was appealing to the broadcasters on grounds of responsibility rather than law. It was for the broadcasting authorities to discharge their duties. He felt that the Government had been hindered by robust give-and-take between broadcasters and politicians.



Mr. Douglas Hurd: I think Mrs. Mary Whitehouse's role in all this has been well recognized

'Silence is the way to answer'

The Prime Minister again clashed with Mr. Kinnock at question time over the value of the pound against the Deutschmark. Mrs. Thatcher told him that asking directly about the exchange rate had previously been "absolutely catastrophic", and she refused to answer him on the subject.

The argument began, to loud Conservative laughter, when the Leader of the Opposition asked if she was satisfied with the effect on the pound-Deutschmark rate of the interest cut on Tuesday.

Mrs. Thatcher: I made a very comprehensive statement on Tuesday. If he wants to know the wisdom of asking questions directly about the exchange rate, he should look and see what happened when certain Labour backbenchers, who became frontbenchers later, asked them of Lord Wilson and Lord Callaghan. It was absolutely catastrophic.

I have nothing further to add to the statement I made on Tuesday.

Mr. Kinnock: Now perhaps she will answer the question. Is she satisfied? Is DM3.17 sustainable or unsustainable?

Mrs. Thatcher: I have nothing further to add. I commend the references I made to him. He will learn a great deal from them.

£5 TV licence move 'fair'

Mr. Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, defended his decision to increase the concessionary television licence for some pensioners from 5p to £5 as "fair and sensible".

Mr. David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the decision would be greeted with disgust by old people. Why should all pensioners not be able to claim concessionary television licences?

Mr. Hurd said that if that was done the cost to other licence holders, many of whom were worse off than pensioners, would be high.

Govan talks 'going well'

Negotiations between the Norwegian company Kvaerner to take over the Govan yard of British Shipbuilders are going well, and there are hopes that the firm will make the west of Scotland its base for gas technology, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, said in a debate on shipbuilding.

He said that Kvaerner were well established in that sphere, with considerable experience and a niche in the market. They had had a useful first meeting with the workforce at Govan.

Job figures welcomed

Mrs. Thatcher said at question time that today's further fall in the unemployment figures was encouraging. Unemployment had fallen for 21 months in succession and since last year by something like 500,000.

Steel Bill

The British Steel Bill, which paved the way for the privatisation of British Steel Corporation, was read the third time in the Commons late on Wednesday by 263 votes to 199 - Government majority, 64.

Debate denied

Labour calls for an early debate on the announcement by Mr. George Young, Secretary of State for Defence, of changed nuclear weapons systems were rejected by Mr. John Wakeham, Leader of the House.

Promise on Bill refused

The Government should resurrect as a Government Bill the legislation of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, which had been thrown out by the Lords yesterday, the day Sir Brandon had died, Mr. William Cash (Stafford, C) said.

He said that the Companies Audit Bill, introduced by the late member for Kensington, had passed very quickly through the Commons, but had been thrown out by the Lords yesterday. Would the Leader of the House (Mr. John Wakeham) consider ensuring that the legislation came back to the Commons as a Government Bill later in the year?

Mr. Wakeham paid tribute to Sir Brandon and said that he could make no promise of a Government Bill on his proposal.

In the Lords late on Wednesday, peers had effectively blocked Sir Brandon's Bill, which was intended to give shareholders more power.

They approved an amendment to delay for six months giving a second reading to the Companies (Audit Committee) Bill. This will effectively kill the Bill. Voting was 43 votes to 22 - majority against, 21.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) moved second reading and paid tribute to Sir Brandon. The Conservative MP had shown great bravery in fighting his illness.

The Bill would give shareholders more rights to appoint independent outside directors to large companies. It had been opposed in the Commons, where it had been dealt with so rapidly that it occupied just 12 lines of the Hansard Official Report.

He said that the CBI now had "a tremor of horror" about the Bill. He had expected it to proceed on the nod, but the CBI had then erupted and "all hell broke loose".

He said that Mrs. Thatcher had backed what she called popular capitalism. Lord Beaverbrook, for the Government, said that the Government would not have brought forward such a measure itself, but it did not see the proposal as sufficiently objectionable to oppose it. However, if it were given a second reading, the Government would table technical amendments to improve its drafting.

Thatcher defends Government Alton Bill stance

The Government's refusal to provide time for Mr. David Alton's Abortion (Amendment) Bill was defended in the Commons by the Prime Minister. She rejected a suggestion from one of her backbenchers that there was a constitutional difficulty involved.

She suggested that the controversial Bill could have been handled differently.

Mr. Ivan Stanbrook (Orpington, C) asked her to give some thought to the constitutional difficulty that had been exposed by the fate of the Bill. It was quite impossible for an important moral issue to be resolved, with the Government apparently neutral, by means of a private member's Bill, however meritorious it might be and however much support it might get in the House of Commons.

Mrs. Thatcher had a duty to change her mind about this

single constitutional issue - (protests) - that matters of this kind ultimately depended upon the decision of the Government to allow them to be considered in Government time. It would take only a few minutes' business.

Mrs. Thatcher: Many of us have had to take through private member's Bills which started off by being very controversial and some of us handled them in very different ways.

I do not accept that it is a constitutional difficulty which the cause of it is not going through. The decision we took not to provide time for private members' Bills was the correct one.

Later, Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that there was a report that Mr. Roy Hattersley, deputy Leader of the Opposition, was trying to persuade the Speaker not to select the amendment on abortion in

PRIME MINISTER

the Criminal Justice Bill.

In view of that and the disgraceful ploys which had prevented a decision last week, if there was any further attempt to prevent the House arriving at a decision the Government should not hesitate to move a motion in accordance with procedure.

Mr. John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that selection of amendments and whipping were not matters for him.

Mr. Andrew MacKay (Berkshire East, C), who is opposed to the Alton Bill, asked the Leader of the House whether it would be helpful for a new clause to be introduced at report stage. It would have very grave consequences for the Government itself.

Every piece of legislation might be subject to the same kind of interpolations. When

the fact that 120 MPs had signed an amendment reducing the time limit for abortion to 24 weeks.

Mr. Wakeham said that the only new clauses he would want to see introduced were those introduced by the House Secretary. His purpose was to get the Bill through. Amendments were a matter for the Speaker.

Mr. Michael Foot (Blisnau, Lab) said that Mr. Wakeham was quite right to say that the selection of amendments was a matter for the Speaker. But if a new clause of such a far-reaching character on such different matters were to be introduced at report stage, it would have very grave consequences for the Government itself.

Mr. Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, SLD) said that when Mr. Foot was Leader of the Opposition an amendment was considered and accepted on the third reading of the Criminal

Justice Bill (Scotland) that had not been considered in committee or second reading. It was incorporated at report stage after being moved by the Opposition front bench.

Since 1975, there had been 15 attempts to introduce pro-life Bills which failed because of extended speeches, points of order and the mechanisms of the House. How would Mr. Wakeham consider this should be properly settled? Was it a matter for private members' legislation or not?

Mr. Wakeham said that he did not fully accept Mr. Alton's analysis of the failure of the Bills on this subject to reach the statute book. But he recognized the force of Mr. Alton's argument. He had nothing more to say on the amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, which was clearly a decision for the Speaker and the House.

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Justice Bill (Scotland) that had not been considered in committee or second reading. It was incorporated at report stage after being moved by the Opposition front bench.

MPs' concern for NZealand quotas

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said during Commons questions that she hoped an agreement could be reached between the EEC and New Zealand on butter exports which was satisfactory to all concerned.

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said he was in mind the massive damage being done to New Zealand by the Common Market, which is spending more than £200 million of taxpayers' money every week dumping butter on the world market at 6p a pound?

Mrs. Thatcher: We have done more than any other Government to get the surpluses under control in the Common Market. We are very much aware of the truth of what he says.

Mr. Marilyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) does she recall the speed with which the New Zealanders came to our support in 1939?

Will she visit the airfields in Lincolnshire and the war graves from Alamein to the distant border, reflect upon the price the New Zealanders paid supporting us, and support New Zealand in the EEC?



Mr. Rees: Praise for New Zealanders' support

Mrs. Thatcher: I thought I was doing just that. Import quotas have been reduced steadily from 165,000 tonnes in 1973 to 74,000 tonnes this year. A new agreement will be negotiated which I hope will be satisfactory to all concerned.

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C) said that, although the arrangement with New Zealand has been a very good one for this country, it did not gain any of the need for New Zealand to find other markets, such as the Soviet Union, because they sold more butter there than the EEC did.

Lunar House delays attacked

Conservative and Labour MPs criticized Mr. Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, for the long delays still being experienced at Lunar House in Croydon, south London, in dealing with nationality applications.

Mr. Renton, replying to questions about progress being made in dealing with the backlog of applications for British nationality, said: Good progress is being made - (Labour laughter). All applications received before December 31 have been acknowledged - (renewed laughter) - and passports and other documents returned to applicants.

They still faced a formidable task in dealing with about

268,000 outstanding citizenship applications. They included more than 80,000 naturalization applications and 187,000 for registration as British citizens.

They had decided to establish a new nationality office in Liverpool, creating 100 new jobs. Suitable accommodation had been identified and negotiations were in hand for a lease.

"It will not be practicable to reach decisions on all the registration applications by the end of the year, as the home affairs committee has recommended, but I am confident that a substantial proportion will be decided by April 1989 and the remainder during the following year."

The laughter was renewed

when Mr. Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C) congratulated the minister on the progress made.

He congratulated the staff of Lunar House on their efforts and said that the heavy workload had been caused because 250,000 people had left it until the last minute to apply, having been given seven years in which to apply. There should be earlier publicity.

Mr. Renton agreed that the staff had worked hard to deal with a mountain of work that had arrived in the last weeks of December. Publicity to remind people had started in early 1987 and this had resulted in more naturalization applications than usual, even though there was no

deadline for them.

Mr. Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton, South East, Lab) asked the minister to show some humility and to reply to the 280,000 people suffering indignity, frustration and anxiety as a result of his incompetence. He should reach out to people who believed themselves to be stateless, respond to their requirements and do the necessary, honourable thing.

Mr. Renton: I am naturally humble, as the House knows (cheers). Most of the people who applied - 100,000 in December - had waited five years before putting in applications.

Citizenship is an important matter and should not be decided in a great hurry.

charge by encouraging people to disregard their civic obligations was demeaning. The Opposition was trying to judge people towards law breaking, both undemocratic and unprincipled.

Mr. Denton, moving the motion, said that there was a ragged fringe around the area defining standards that would cause the Government problems.

How, once students had registered, were they to claim their 20 per cent reduction? Would

the universities and colleges supply lists to registration officers? If so, they would have a great deal of work to do since the definition of students cut across many definitions used in universities.

If, as was suspected, there were to be student identification cards, that would be totally unacceptable to the Opposition and it should be ruled out. Even with the discount, few, if any students would look forward to the arrival of the poll tax.

secular counterparts without the prop of excessive apparel."

He said that there might be some confusion in the minds of laymen as to what exactly was the role of the bishops and what was the significance, if any, of the robes they wore in the chamber.

The Bishop of Southwark, Dr. Ronald Bowley, said that few of them were card-carrying members of any party and still fewer would ever wish to be bound by some kind of party whip.

"There is for us no sharp distinction between the spiritual and temporal of such a kind as we can live our lives in two distinct departments."

"If you ask most bishops, they will tell you that it is a bit of a nuisance to have to keep taking off your robes and putting them on again every time you want to get a cup of tea or something a little more fortifying."

Robes did belong more naturally to the sphere of the church and worship and one felt a bit

HOUSE OF LORDS

out of place wandering about in them in the House of Lords.

He would welcome a further infusion of church leaders from other Christian churches and from other faiths on to the Bishops' Bench.

Lord Belstead, Leader of the House, said that according to the Companion of Standing Orders, a bishop on introduction to the House should wear ecclesiastical robes, but the practice of wearing them during ordinary sittings appeared to rest on custom alone and not from any of the ancient Acts.

Old customs died hard in the House of Lords. Colleagues of his on the front bench deplored the passing of garter and apron.

"So far as this particular custom is concerned, I am not aware that the Lords would wish to see any change."

There was no historical customs of dress for members of the House other than the prelates.

It was most important that the advice of the Bishops' Bench be given on matters that were bound to include those of political importance.

Proposal on poll tax and the ability to pay

Whips confident of defusing revolt

By Sheila Gann Political Staff

Government whips in the House of Lords are increasingly confident of defusing next Monday's revolt by Conservative rebels on the proposals for introducing a flat-rate poll tax.

However, Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr. Michael Howard, Minister for local Government, are not so optimistic and are briefing loyal backbenchers to speak in the debate in their favour.

Lord Halsbury of St. Marylebone is also set to issue the same warning to fellow peers in the chamber about overstepping their constitutional limits as he did in correspondence with Lord Jenkins of Hillhead through the Letters columns of *The Times*.

But others are known to take a less rigid view and do not support the argument that the upper House can not meddle with the poll tax proposals.

The whips believe that they have convinced enough peers on the Conservative and indepen-



Lord Chelwood: Quietly optimistic

dent cross-benches to win the vote on the amendment tabled by Lord Chelwood and three other Conservatives to relate the poll tax to people's ability to pay.

They are hoping that the intervention of Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Ridley, who both addressed meetings of backbench

Conservative peers, has helped to limit the number of Conservatives willing to revolt over such a politically sensitive issue.

The result could depend on whether the unwhipped independent peers, including the bishops, former top civil servants and legal heads, are convinced of the Government's case.

Mr. Ridley invited Lord Chelwood, formerly Sir Tufton Beamish, and members of his so-called "Tuffy Club", for a drink to try to persuade him to drop his opposition to a flat-rate community charge.

Lord Chelwood said, however, "I have not changed my mind and I do not think I changed it."

He is quietly optimistic that he will gain the support of enough other "loyal" Conservative Party supporters and cross-benches to push through his amendment.

He has tabled a change to it, to be debated at the start of the detailed committee stage next Monday, so that Mr. Ridley has one year after the Local Govern-

ment Finance Bill becomes law to bring forward plans to take account of people's ability to pay.

The pressure from Mr. Ridley and his colleagues has intensified on the Lords whips after they gave the vote on the Community Charge (Students)

SPECTRUM

As the Government is accused of abandoning the South to developers, John Young visits two villages caught in the crossfire



Whose land is it anyway? Harry Cook of the local residents' association surveys the plan and site for one of the housing developments that would effectively obliterate the villages of Three Mile Cross and Spencers Wood

Is this the Green Belt buckling?

The Berkshire village of Three Mile Cross takes its name from its role as a staging post on the old coach road from Reading to Portsmouth. Today any pretensions to rural peace and tranquillity are rudely shattered by the M4 motorway, which sweeps past its northern edge.

Neither it nor its neighbour, Spencers Wood, half a mile up the road, could be classed as archetypally picturesque English villages. They are too close to the boom town of Reading to have escaped the intrusion of post-war housing developments. But the threat that now hangs over them dwarfs anything seen so far.

Two developers, 'Speyhawk' of Isleworth and the Barton Willmore Planning Partnership — representing a consortium of Bryant Homes, Charles Church, Ideal Homes, Alfred McAlpine, and Rockhold — have separately applied to build houses on two huge areas of farmland, one at Great Lea to the north-west of the villages, the other to the east. The total area amounts to just on 1,000 acres and, if both applications are approved, the green fields will be covered with some 6,750 new homes, accommodating perhaps 20,000 to 25,000 people. Spencers Wood and Three Mile Cross would effectively cease to exist.

The proposed developments are at the heart of the increasingly acrimonious debate over the creeping urbanization of South-east England. This is solidly Conservative country, yet Berkshire County Council, backed by virtually every district and parish council in the county, and by a 90-strong body of back-bench Tory MPs, is locked in combat with Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, who insists that more room must be found to accommodate the region's forecast population explosion.

Only last week Ridley suggested that within the next decade the South-east would require 610,000 new homes. That was 150,000, nearly a third, more than the estimate made two years ago by the London and South-east Regional Planning Conference (Serplan), which at the time was criticized as inflated and based on unrealistic assumptions.

The new figures have inevitably increased fears that London's Green Belt will be eroded. In an impassioned speech on Wednesday, the former Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, accused Ridley of abandoning the South to developers. "If you argue that a demand only has to exist for it to have a right to be met," he told the Brick Development Association, "then in the end, from the Weald of Kent to the Berkshire Downs, from the Chilterns to the Channel, you will go on building till you reach the sea."

But Ridley has so far insisted that the Green Belt will remain inviolate, and has even hinted that developers who attempt to breach it will have to pay the cost of any planning inquiries. For the time being, the battle is being fought in the area immediately outside the Belt.

Harry Cook, chairman of the local residents' association and an active member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, has lived for the past 25 years at the end of a lane on the edge of Spencers Wood, surrounded on three sides by water meadows and rough grazing. In agricultural terms the land is mostly "unimproved", and the pasture stretching south to the River Loddon might almost be termed a nature reserve.

"I find it hard to accept that it is now all under threat from these, shall we say, somewhat predatory developers," Cook says. "They would no doubt be nice houses in leafy surroundings, but the point is that the motorway at present effectively acts as the southern boundary of Reading."

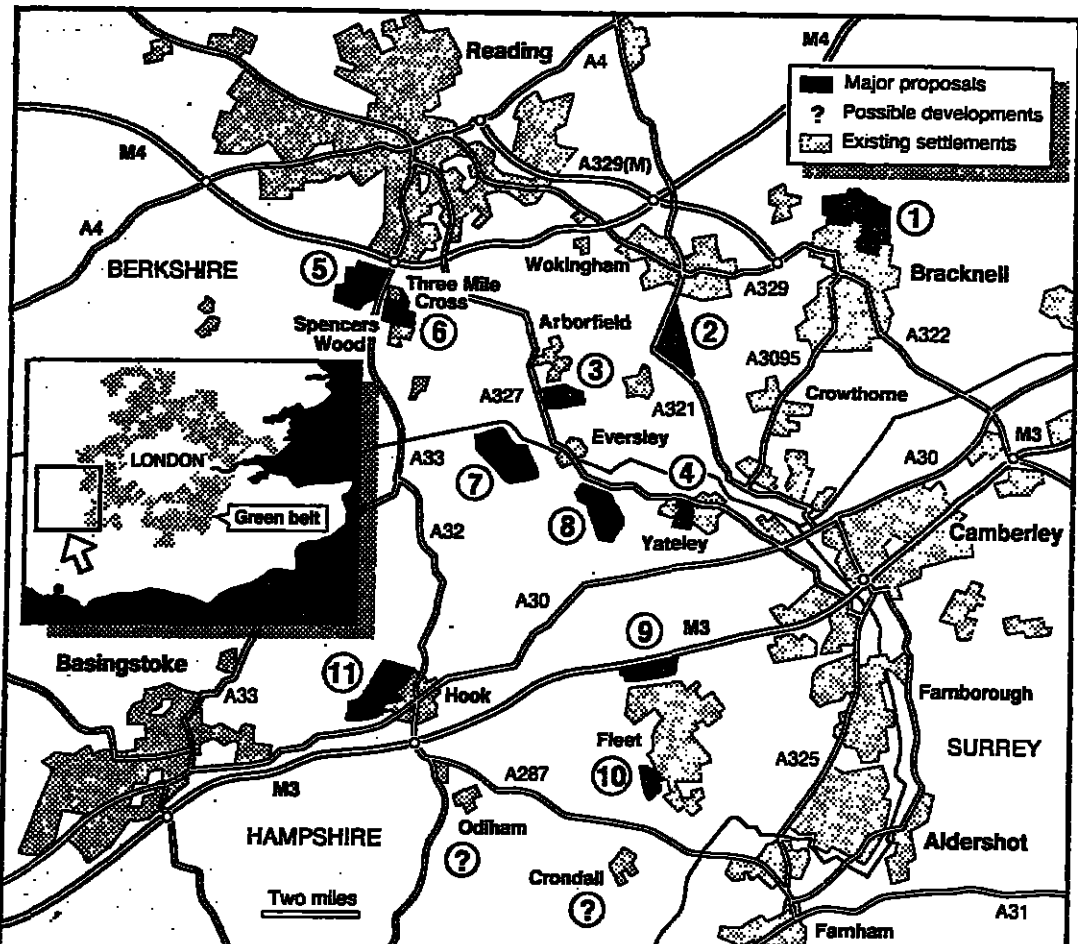
"If we allow Reading to encroach beyond it, we will have set a precedent. There will be nothing then to prevent more and more developments spreading all the way into Hampshire."

Tony Davis has been the local postmaster for the last 17 years. "I know just about everybody in the village, and there is tremendous feeling against the developers," he says. "I am coming up to 60 and, because we know so many people, we had planned to retire here. But if these schemes go ahead, we will pack up and move away, and I find that very sad."

"It seems incredible to me that this has come about. I don't believe that Ridley can really agree with this sort of thing, but the developers have so much power and they are using blackmailing tactics."

Needless to say, the developers reject any suggestion that they are trying to browbeat the planning authorities. In their planning submission, Barton Willmore side with Ridley in his view that the county structure plan sets an unrealistically low target for private housing.

They even go so far as to suggest that any "really large-scale development" immediately south of the M4 would effectively be an extension of Reading. That, they say, would apply to the proposed Speyhawk development at Great Lea, but not to their own plans for



TIMES DIARY

THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

After 18 years organizing the election campaigns of the Grocer and the grocer's Daughter, Roger Boaden, widely tipped as a future Director of Organization at Conservative Party Central Office, has left Smith Square to found a new organization to look after the interests of the nation's shopkeepers.

Boaden achieved the near-impossible of being a trusted lieutenant of Heath yet surviving to be part of Mrs Thatcher's entourage in all her General Election campaigns. He is officially enthralled at the challenge a new organization provides after 30 years at Tory HQ, but the resignation of such a long-standing party loyalist highlights the sense of frustration felt by many in Smith Square. They had expected that the new party chairman Peter Brook would enthuse the organization so that once again there will be no question of its supremacy over the Labour Party machine, which in their view performed all too well in the last election.

None of my former Parliamentary colleagues to whom I talked last weekend seemed unduly concerned by reports of Cabinet rifts. The view was that the Chancellor and the Prime Minister would devise a formula to demonstrate their loyalty to each other and unanimity in economics. They were right. It was agreed that Geoffrey Howe was miffed at suggestions that neither he, nor his generation of politicians, would succeed Mrs Thatcher. There was some feeling that the small but vocal anti-Thatcher group had seen disagreement between Chancellor and Prime Minister as the banana-skin for which they had been waiting, and had exaggerated it. But above all they told me there was none of the plotting to change the leadership which occupied the back benches between 1971 and 1974: no meetings in country houses, clubs or flats within the sound of the Division Bell. Julian Ridsdale, a senior backbencher whose wife, Paddy, is chairman of the party wives, reminded me that these meetings were attended by both old and new members but that now the new intake were totally loyal Thatcherites.

Airey Neave, when first approached with the suggestion that he should join the plotters, said that he would — but not yet. One hundred and twelve members supported the call for a change of leadership, although many would only give their name in confidence — Ridsdale has kept the list. At one of the early meetings Neave suggested Mrs Thatcher be considered as a potential leader of the Party. Ridsdale was so impressed he wrote his words in his diary. Neave said that Mrs Thatcher had the charisma which would not only win elections at home but would make her into a world statesman. It is probably the first time that anyone had seen her in that light.

Keith Speed, Member for Ashford, and Peter Snape, MP for West Bromwich East, the joint chairmen of the all-Party Channel Tunnel Group, have abandoned Westminster this week to study the French high speed train and Swiss skills in tunnelling. Snape, an ex-railwayman, doesn't have to explain his credentials. But Speed's are surprisingly good, too. His constituency is likely to be affected by the Tunnel: his wife is the daughter of a grand-daughter of an engine driver; his son has reverted to stock and is a coach builder with Kent & East Sussex Railway.

The British Rail team which has been investigating the advantages of upgrading the existing line from the coast to London to take faster trains and heavier traffic, rather than building a new track, is due to report to David Mitchell, the Transport Minister, within two months. Rumour has it that the route of the existing line, with minor modifications, will be retained.

BARRY FANTONI



'It seems we're entering a period of bliss'

The Shadow of Black Monday fell just as heavily and unexpectedly on the Royal Bank of Canada as on any other City institution. But their new building, designed and equipped for better days, was virtually complete so that when the Queen recently went to open it, the bank was confronted with the problem of how to hide the empty trading floors and idle gadgetry. Their solution was simple. Workers moved from one office to another so that when the Queen looked in on the trading floor it was full of happy people sitting at the screens or talking down the telephones. In fact, many were the settlement staff from a back office.

Harriet Crawley, art dealer and mother, the Conservative candidate who, when she fought Ken Livingstone at the last election, turned Brent into a marginal seat, is campaigning again. Crawley, recently adopted as the Euro candidate for Central London, is the daughter of Aiden Crawley in his time both a Labour and Conservative Member, and a Virginia Cowles, the historian.

Full of vitality, visiting each of her 100-wards, she has at this stage of the campaign renounced the usual Tory blue for a scarlet jacket and trousers, thereby dressing to the image which some of her detractors in Brent had ascribed to her. She will, she assures me, wear blue nearer the election.

Their Lordships are having a heady time. From floating gently in the backwaters of politics they are suddenly in the main stream. Early this week Kenneth Baker, Secretary for Education, was to be seen frequently in the neighbourhood of the Chamber astutely seeking to persuade peers to resist Tuesday's amendment which would have delayed, if not prevented, the abolition of the ILEA.

Their Lordships duly responded to this flattering attention by giving him a handsome majority though there had been real fear that they might not. Last week the Lords had decided that a simple majority of parents voting was not enough to validate the opting out of schools from control by a local education authority: it had to be a majority of all parents who could have voted.

This overthrow of a carefully considered government provision was heartily supported by Lord Callaghan who would never have become prime minister if general elections were conducted on the same basis, and who would certainly have resented the Lords frustrating such important parts of his government's legislation.

Doubtless this Lords amendment will be overturned in the Commons but these carry-ons delay the government's legislative programme. Now next Monday the most serious attempt yet this session to sabotage government legislation will be

mounted in the Lords. Lord Chelwood will move an amendment to wreck the community charge already passed by the Commons. He is reputed to be confident of victory.

His amendment would require the Government to think out a new scheme "related to ability to pay, in respect of those who are, and those who are not, entitled to rebates". This is a deformed child out of the Mates' amendment for banded charges defeated in the Commons. Lord Chelwood does not claim to have any idea what the government's new scheme should be or consist of. He merely requires the Government to produce one which must be approved by both Houses of Parliament before the Bill built round the community charge can come into force.

Lord Chelwood appears to have many supporters among Tories, Liberals and SDPs and, of course, the Labour benches. None of them defends the existing rates system or advances any practicable alternative to the community charge as it now stands. They are imbued by vague feelings that it is not quite fair, or by a dislike for Mrs

Thatcher. This is very odd. Last May the Abolition of Domestic Rates (Scotland) etc Act finished all its stages in the Lords. The community charge in Scotland which comes into force next April, is arranged in exactly the same way as it is for England. The only adjustments will be to add the recent improvements in rebates made by the Government to the community charge in England to which the Scottish community charge is linked. Does this mean that Lord Chelwood and his supporters have hearts which bleed only for the English but never for the Scots? It must be constitutional nonsense. For the Lords to pass Lord Chelwood's amendment would be for their Lordships to stand on their heads within the space of a year.

The Abolition of Domestic Rates etc (Scotland) Act, would effectively be repealed.

Anyway, the Government's community charge is now festooned with consideration for ability to pay. Nine million people will get rebates. A married couple with two children paying the average community charge will have an

income above three-quarters of average earnings. (In 1987 £219.40 a week for males) before they cease to get rebates. If their community charge is above average their income will have to be still higher before rebates cease. Even the poorest after their 80 per cent rebate will receive 20 per cent of the average community charge throughout the country in their social security benefits to pay the balance of the community charge.

On 1987-8 spending at last June's prices Labour-controlled Camden would have had to make a community charge per head of £782. The Birmingham council is also Labour controlled. Assuming the community charge were in full operation its community charge would have been only £186 or £38 below the national average of £224. In Birmingham, those receiving 20 per cent of the average national community charge in their social security benefits would have been able to keep back a little for themselves. In Camden they would have forked out more from their own pockets which might well induce them to vote for a more sensible

council. It is not the Government but the local council which sets the community charge, which will vary according to the good or bad management of the council concerned. But the top 10 per cent of households by income will on average pay 15 times more than the bottom 10 per cent for the same services through their much higher tax contribution for the 50 per cent of local spending provided by central government. So it is ridiculous to speak of unfairness or of failure to relate the community charge to ability to pay.

The only unfairness can be the behaviour of local councils which insist on spending beyond what is necessary (last June that would have required a community charge of £178) to provide the basic services: schools, meals-on-wheels, the police, roads and footpaths, street lighting, museums, art galleries, waste collection and so on.

Some doubt has been raised as to the efficacy of collection of the community charge since deductions cannot be made under the PAYE scheme. However, in addition to the old power of distraint, which is unattractive:

and should be and is sparingly used, there will be the new power of attachment of earnings and of benefits until the rates overdue are paid. There should be no great difficulty in collection.

Even if the government were wrong, and it is not, it would be intolerable if the Lords destroyed the English community charge. If Lord Chelwood's amendment were passed there would be long delays in producing a scheme for changing it and so far nobody has been able to think of one. The Scottish Act would have to be replaced by a new Act which could not possibly come into force by next April. All the Scottish arrangements now made and being made would be thrown into confusion.

It is amazing that Lord Chelwood and his supporters should think that the Lords is now equivalent to the Commons in its rights to block important government legislation and to go further than the Commons by reversing legislation which it has itself already passed. It is an enormous mistake by the fact that the community charge was set out clearly in the manifesto on which the Government was elected last June. The Lords were not elected but it seems some believe they can behave as if they were. If their Lordships pass Lord Chelwood's amendment they will be setting in train their own disembowelling by har- kin.

Woodrow Wyatt on delusions of power in the Upper House

Hands off, My Lords

Roy Jenkins

This short-sighted isolation

It is ironic that the British Government, having sought the immunity of currency independence, should have been rocked by an inter-ministerial crisis which has been fundamentally about the European Monetary System. Throughout its life however, the EMS, apart from its direct impact on currency stability between the eight fully participating countries, has shown a remarkable capacity to create major political side effects.

At the beginning of the creation of the system in 1978/79 the Italian Government, disappointed by the amount of economic support forthcoming from France and Germany, swallowed several times before taking the plunge into membership. It saw an awkward decision between political advantage and economic disadvantage, and gave priority to the former. Paradoxically, however, the short-term result was the weakening of the Andreotti government which was then in office, but the effect over a ten-year span has been to hitch the Italian economy (or at least the northern and central parts of it) far more firmly to the Franco-German core than would otherwise have been the case, and thus to avoid the development of a two-speed Europe split along a north/south divide.

In France the political consequences came later, but were just as momentous. In 1983, two years after the Socialist victory, the Mitterrand government was faced with a clear choice. Either it could maintain its policies of nationalization, redistribution through generous wage settlements and attempted unilateral expansion of the economy or it could stay in the EMS. There was no longer a possibility of getting the best of both worlds. Perhaps with an inner sigh of relief, that government recoiled from the prospect of a semi-siege economy, the severance of a vital link with Germany and a

defeat for the prestige of France. The course was shifted from a socialist to a social democratic direction, inflation was controlled, and Mitterrand's re-election this month was made possible.

British governments believed that they could avoid political complications by the simple device of staying out of the exchange rate mechanism. They relegated the European political aspect of the matter to a much lower level than the Italian Government accorded it, and believed that freedom of economic manoeuvre could be preserved outside. I remember James Callaghan telling me in the autumn of 1978 that "in principle" he was in favour of joining, but that he was afraid of being locked in at too high a rate and thus inhibited from dealing with unemployment. Six months later Mrs Thatcher assured me in the same room in 10, Downing Street that she too was "in principle" in favour of joining, but that she feared being locked in at too low a rate, and thus inhibited from dealing with inflation.

Particularly as Britain then proceeded to experience for several years both higher unemployment and higher inflation than almost any participating country, I decided that the excuses were more important than the principle, and that not the least of the things which British prime ministers have in common is an endemic liking for a semi-detached position, half in and half out of the door of Europe.

It is a curious taste, for it is often an uncomfortable position for Britain and one which causes as much impatience among the inhabitants of the house as would a caller who on a cold and windy day kept them endlessly arguing on the threshold. Leaving aside for the moment the considerable damage which



avoidable overshooting has done to British industry in the past decade, I have never been able to understand why Mrs Thatcher, with her natural taste for a leadership role, has not seen how damaging her EMS renitence has been to her influence in Europe.

The point was grasped immediately by the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, who at the moment of Spain's entry told me that his aim would be early admission to the EMS (admittedly he has not yet

achieved it in the first 2½ years) because without participation in all the activities of Europe there was little chance of being central to any of them.

For Britain the point is even more valid than for Spain, because of our post-war history of always standing out. It will never be believed in continental Europe that we have learnt the lesson of 1951 (the Coal and Steel Community) or 1957 (the Treaty of Rome) so long as we behave in the same way over the

EMS, which until the single market of 1992 becomes a reality, remains Europe's only substantial internal achievement since Britain joined. The case is sufficiently strong that over the 1980s we have seen the gradual conversion of the Bank of England, the Foreign Office, the Treasury, the official level, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor, and indeed nearly the whole of informed unofficial opinion as well. But not the Prime Minister, who sticks to the

now wholly farcical position that we will join when the circumstances are right.

It is farcical because we have now been through almost every conceivable set of relevant circumstances and through many of them two or three times. We have, for instance, seen the key sterling/Deutschmark rate vary between 2.86DM and 4.79DM. It is hardly likely to go lower than the former or higher than the latter. We have therefore become a sort of permanent liftdweller in a department store. We have been up and down several times and offered everything from hard furnishings and children's toys to fancy goods and ladies' fashions, but still remain covering in the elevator waiting for some mythical department which has never been seen on land or sea.

The strains within the Government, created by this erratic decision (which in practice has become a negative decision) are obvious and understandable. They are almost certainly becoming greater as the groundswell towards a further major advance in the EMS gathers momentum.

This is seen increasingly as a necessary concomitant of the single market, with a unified central banking authority a practical possibility.

The choice which confronts Britain is therefore the classical one of whether we allow institutions to be set in a firm mould without our participation in shaping them. But this time it poses itself in a peculiarly visceral form. London is the biggest financial centre in Europe, banking is supposed to be something at which we are particularly good. To stand outside a major development in the banking and currency field and still pretend that we are a fully committed member of the European Community will not be a tenable position.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Masters of none

The threatened split in the TUC caused by its sudden insistence that the EETPU disallow no strike agreements need not be a disaster for British trade unionism. Indeed, it could be the stimulus that leads to the creation or rebuilding of a revitalized movement catering for a larger number of workers and more accurately reflecting their views than does the present monolith.

It's certainly needed. The increasing irrelevance of trade unions to many workers is both disturbing and obvious. It is demonstrated by the more than 20 per cent decline in membership since 1979, the fact that members tend to be concentrated in the older, declining industries and in the north, and are not being recruited in the new enterprises and that, as the ACAS annual report points out, the unions are largely ignored by their members and employers.

The TUC must take some blame for this. It has been partly responsible, at least, for the negative and obstructive image of trade unions that has been allowed to get about. It is guilty of causing the unions to be portrayed as being ineffective, incompetent and out of touch. Even its best friends accept this charge, albeit reluctantly. They confess that its policies are often outmoded, its practices antiquated and its general demeanour not likely to attract the new breed of workers inhabiting the high tech factories on green field sites.

The TUC isn't even master in its own domain. On virtually every important union issue it has been silent or incompetent —

usually both. It vacillated over the pit strike, hunched and balked over the riots at Wapping, was all things to all men on the Dundee Ford plant fiasco and doesn't want to know and doesn't know what to do about the Channel ferry debacle.

There doesn't seem much point in having a "cabinet" — even an "inner cabinet" — of the trade union movement or a "parliament of labour", if the one can't actually instruct, the other can't actually legislate for anything. Or rather, both can do either but neither will be heeded. There's certainly been little leadership displayed by a "cabinet" that could not insist on the importance of a secret ballot before a national miners' strike was called; that has been lagged in condemning violence; which is hesitant in eschewing mass picketing; and which needs months to determine its wrangle with the electricians.

But then it can't speak with one voice. The days when a reasonably united movement could articulate its members' interests with a sure touch are gone. Now the TUC has to accommodate the political fantasies of a Scargill alongside the reasonableness of a Lyons; to square the silly romanticism of a Gill with the realism of a Tuffin and the meandering of a Todd with the sense of a Jordan. It can't be done. And it shows. That's why the TUC is both inept and politically castrated.

So it tries instead to bully the EETPU. No doubt some of this has to do with that union's activity at Wapping and the outspokenness of its general

secretary. But there is also a principle at stake, and it's a fine one. The principle that trade unionists must not sell the right to strike has much to commend it. It was highly relevant and important in the 19th century and for most of the 20th, and fitted well with notions of class war. It does seem, though, to be out of kilter with current needs.

But its irrelevance or otherwise is not the point. What is important is: do the workers want it and are they prepared to trade it for other benefits? The answer seems to be "no" to the first question and "yes" to the second. And that settles the matter, they're the ones who decide. After all, it's their livelihoods that's at stake and it's also their union. It must do their bidding. They pay the subscriptions that provide the salaries of their servants, that fund their BMWs, the posh headquarters, the flats and all the other perks. All they demand in return is to be served, to have their interests represented as they see them, not as someone else interprets them.

No one, certainly not some bureaucrat who has been a long time away from the coalface and the production line, and who has grown fat on pink champagne at expensive Soho restaurants, has the right to swagger forward and insist that they have to abide by some new ideological purity. That's the kind of arrogance that has been losing the unions members and has almost destroyed the Labour Party. Men and women on the shopfloor won't wear it. The EETPU knows that. That's why, in the end, it will win.

SCIENCE REPORT

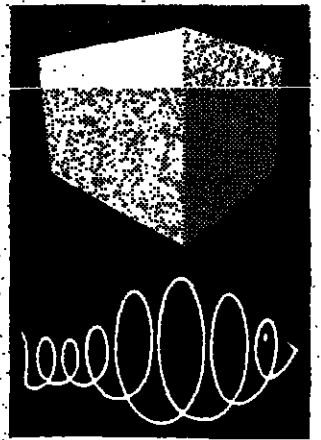
Ice flow

The arrangement of atoms in a protein molecule that keeps Arctic fish from freezing even in the coldest seas is also one of the most unusual of protein structures so far found. D.S.C. Yang and his colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh say in this week's *Nature* that the unusual shape of the molecule probably explains why it is a natural antifreeze.

The protein is found in the plasma of the winter flounder, which endures seawater temperatures 1.9C below freezing. The function of the blood protein is to ensure that the water in the tissues of the fish remains liquid even below the normal freezing point.

Yang's team has studied the protein extracted from winter flounder using X-ray crystallography, which can tell how atoms are arranged in molecules if the molecules can be made into crystals. The surprise from the analysis is that the entire antifreeze molecule is shaped as if by tightly winding the long linear backbone of the molecule into a corkscrew shape.

Although this arrangement of protein molecules, known as an alpha-helix, has been known for more than 30 years, the antifreeze protein is the first in which the corkscrew molecule is constructed in that way. In other protein molecules, stretches of alpha-helix are usually interrupted by other structures. The antifreeze molecules are each five



Richard Leadbetter. This simple shape points to why the protein is an antifreeze. Chains of atoms protruding from one side of the helix at regular intervals, attract water molecules, and so inhibit the free formation of ice crystals. This is why when ice eventually forms in protein-laden plasma, its crystals are long and needle-like.

The researchers show how the antifreeze molecules direct the shape of the crystals, as well as delay their formation by attaching themselves to some faces of growing crystals rather than to others, forcing them to grow in only one direction.

The researchers suggest that the screw-thread protein molecules have a small electrical polarity that induces water molecules to line up in a

particular way. This times the orientation of the protein molecules with respect to a growing ice crystal, giving them better purchase on the ice.

Professor Roger Pain from the University of Newcastle says Yang's theory will be difficult to prove. Researchers would have to watch the microscopic ice crystals actually forming, to see how natural antifreeze disrupts or modifies the process.

Most of the antifreezes in the natural world, as in pine needles and some kinds of beetles, are not proteins but alcohols, similar to the ethylene glycol used in car radiators. Alcohols seem to be particularly effective, enabling some organisms to survive even at -30C. Protein antifreezes depress the freezing point only by a degree or so, and work in a different way.

Alcohols modify the gross physical properties of solutions, lowering the melting point, as does salt sprinkled on icy paths in winter. Antifreeze proteins, by contrast, have the change effect on solutions of lowering the freezing point, but leaving the melting point unaffected. Yang's views on the behaviour of winter flounder protein are based on a mechanism proposed ten years ago that protein molecules disrupt the formation of ice crystals during freezing, but not interfere with the dis-aggregation during melting.

HENRY GEE

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مكتبة ابن الصل

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

England up for auction

The national obsession with property and its consequences were investigated by *This Week* (ITV). "There is a difference between boom, wealth and greed, and what we are seeing now is greed," said a Leicestershire Mayor, crisply, commenting on the invading hordes of developers, anticipating the electrification of the railway to her rural town by flashing up houses for London commuters.

An Englishman's home is now his capital asset, particularly if his wife is skilled at the contemporary folk craft of doing-up. We are raising generations of children whose memories of infancy will be shrouded in plaster dust and spattered with Dulux Apricot White, though the four offspring of a London mother, who had traded up from a £92,000 home to one worth more than £1 million in six years, were not asked to comment.

This was a programme which I could hear being quoted in 20 years time, when the documentarists of the future hark back to the booming Eighties. In his brief half-hour, Roger Gill was able to capture many telling images of the times, particularly in the territory poetically known to estate agents as Roseland: the rest of the South East outside London.

Here he found little unemployment, symbolized by the small and deserted job centre in Crawley, but many lower paid young people with no choice but to move out of an area in which they could not afford to live. Sadly, these were mostly highly qualified and socially essential workers — teachers, nurses or social workers — this exodus presaged an implosion of the south's social services.

Here too, was general Gordon-Lennox of Bramshill in Berkshire, at war with developers and talking of bridgeheads and pattern-bombing, as he flew over the endangered countryside. Elsewhere there was the £46,000 studio in Central London, 9ft by 6ft 9 inches, with no kitchen, which none the less was already under offer.

Such absurdities have driven London workers to endure commuting journeys of more than two hours each way. The latest and most distant boom town discovered was Doncaster in Yorkshire. Here a young miner, in financial difficulties since the miners' strike, had lost his home, which was promptly bought by a developer.

Celia Brayfield

Irving Wardle welcomes the vigour of Peter Hall's final production work at the National Theatre

Taking leave in style

THEATRE

The Winter's Tale Cottesloe

happening to people who never considered themselves tragic material. They change. Basil Henson's urbane twinkling Camillo discovers his talent for deception. Peter Woodward's boyish Polixenes loses his innocence in a flash (we see the consequence of that in his harsh middle-age).

Sally Dexter's radiantly confident Hermione takes on an aloof dignity, like a victim of burning who cannot show her skin. All these people have been permanently damaged; and none more than Leontes, who finally regains his sanity as a writhing denatured wreck, grovelling at the feet of Paulina (Eileen Atkins) with pleas for more punishment.

The main turning points are expressed through the geometry of the stage. When Hermione appeals to Apollo, she looks up at the emblem of the sun immediately over her head. The trial scene is presented in a straight line, with Leontes, his back to the audience, on the line that leads through the central aisle to Hermione's centre-stage dock; so that, at the news of Mamilus's death from the back of the house, all heads turn in a single impulse of horror.

At this point, although there are still things to enjoy (such as Ken Stott's fruitfully slumming Autolycus), the production loses its certainty of direction. Rather as though, having with difficulty modulated into tragedy, it is unable to change course yet again.

The loss is felt even in the stage mechanics. Miss Chitty, one of our most austere designers, now starts opening up boxes of tricks. The back wall jerks open for Time to totter on with hour glass. He occupies a crucial place in the reconciliation scheme, but it is impossible to attend to his speech, because it is accompanied by the slow half revolution of the Coper-nican disc, to the sound of a ticking clock.

Worse is to follow when a circular section of the stage floor unhinges, to reveal a scabby patch of grass, for the sheep-shearing festivities. And when we finally return to Sicily, Hermione has to enact her reawakening through a set of net curtains. This is a crashingly awkward move, which also denies us the sight of the statue stirring into life.

The rustic festivities are quite entertaining, particularly when Stott mounts the garlanded wagon to deliver his sales pitch and harmonize with a pair of carnivorous competitive maidens in "Get you hence". But, anxious that no one should miss the fertility symbolism in this innocent entertainment, Hall brings on a corps de ballet of satyrs, to a ferocious pipe and drum number by Harrison Birtwistle who make after Shirley Henderson's demure Perdita with swinging phalluses.

The party then stops dead for Perdita to deliver her flower speech: which may be central to the play's nature-nurture debate, but not when punched home like an academic lecture. Otherwise some fine actors, including Michael Bryant as the Old Shepherd, and Woodward's disguised Polixenes, fall victim to Mummeret.



Suffering physical and emotional distress: Tim Pigott-Smith as Leontes

Violent spectacle contrasts with feeble comedy

No Mean City King's Theatre, Glasgow

The Virtuous Burglar/An Ordinary Day Mitchell Theatre

Ironies abound. At Mayfest, shining herald of Glasgow's cultural renaissance which is working so hard to rid the city of its image of hard men, street fighting and slum dwelling, they are flocking to a stage adaptation of the book

which, more than any other, defined that very image.

No Mean City, the story of Johnny Stark, the razor king from the Gorbals, has been for 50 years practically a set text for any would-be villain. In David Hayman's expressionist staging for the 7:34 Company, where the shoulders get wider as the villains get nastier and the company is reduced to animal noises, Alexander Morton struts Stark's brief hour of glory with frightening conviction.

It is violent, foul-mouthed, at times spectacular sight, with a vigorous and committed cast playing as if their lives depended on it. But it is not just pyrotechnics. Alex Norton, who has adapted

the book, has kept enough to capture something of the hopes and aspiration of the other characters and of the politics of the time.

At the heart of the play, a rare moment of stillness amid the teeming tenebrous life that surges across the stage, is a scene where Stark and his earnest brother Peter, trying to make his way in the world by more conventional means, argue through the pros and cons of their different approaches to life.

In the circumstances of the Gorbals and with the knowledge that Peter's wages have just been cut by 10 per cent you almost feel that Johnny's glory glory nihilism may have a point.

That moral ambiguity tosses the

play firmly and convincingly into the political arena, which is undoubtedly where the company wants it, they even manage to get several verses of "The Red Flag" into the show.

The other Scottish company strutting their stuff this week are Borderline, who have established an enviable reputation for comedy and farce, and particularly the plays of David F. O. They are currently offering a Fo double bill, *The Virtuous Burglar* from 1957 and *An Ordinary Day* from 1987.

A chance to see how the playwright has developed, perhaps? Not a hope. Even allowing for the inimitable atmosphere of the theatre where I saw them, neither play is particularly funny.

and the extent of Signor Fo's development seems to be that he is slightly less funny now than he was 30 years ago and uses fewer actors.

An Ordinary Day is practically a monologue, in which a woman trying to make a suicide video keeps getting interrupted. The unfortunate actress looked as if she would rather go off and slit her wrists in private.

The rest of the company go through the motions with increasing desperation, but for once, Borderline's talented director Morag Fullerton appears to have lost her touch.

Robert Dawson Scott

Over the top in a classical pop

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Burgos Festival Hall

Orff's *Carmina Burana* is usually hailed for three reasons. Its texts being mostly concerned with the pleasures of eating, drinking and the other — hardly exert the intellect. The repetitive settings, with their pre-war disco-beats and fake folkiness, enrage those who believe music should evolve, not revolve (though we of the Philip Glass era should hardly complain about Orff).

There is also the uneasy feeling that those strutting choral refrains, revelling in the ups and downs of the *fortuna rota*, would not be so objectionable if they had not been composed in Germany in 1937. Yet *Carmina Burana* remains unpunishable, like the tabloid press (with which it shares its voyeuristic delight in clerical voice and undress). Last night it drew another near-full house.

Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos's reading now differs conspicuously from his classic recording: speed-changes seem jerkier (whatever happened to the gradual accelerations in "Tempus est iocundum"?), and there is also an undeniable deterioration in control. Burgos's unhinging of the semi-chorus in "Veris leia" suggests that, should he ever enter a monastery, he should not be put in charge of the plainsong.

Later the Philharmonia Chorus sang impressively (the men in the *taberna* especially). James Bowman was in saucy form as the roared swan, and Elizabeth Gale, though not quite conveying ultimate sexual ecstasy in "Dulcissime", at least hit the top note clearly. Jonathan Summers sounded glum, but the Southend Boys were in fine throaty form.

The Philharmonia Orchestra mustered more spirit here than it had in a stuporously dull performance of Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* music. Titania would have slept, but not by magic.

Richard Morrison

ANDRÉ PREVIN conducts the ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA with VIKTORIA MULLOVA Sunday 19 June 7.30pm VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY Sunday 25 June 7.30pm ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER Saturday 2 July 7.30pm Sunday 3 July 7.30pm

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THE SOUTH CENTRE

Souvenirs of the Grand Tour

GALLERY

The Travelling Earl Burghley House, Cambridgeshire

When you consider the sheer size of many of England's stately homes, it is not surprising that things like the Caernarvon Egyptian reliefs turn up in forgotten corners. And, on a much humbler level, rediscoveries are still to be made. One of the inspirations for this year's special exhibition at Burghley House, *The Travelling Earl* (until October 9), was just such a find.

A small ivory group strongly influenced by Bernini, "Daphne and Apollo", turned up in a bundle of old newspapers at the back of a cupboard. Going back to the Fifth Earl of Exeter, the traveller of the title, it was noted as purchased in May 1684, and recurred in inventories until 1804, since when nothing more was known of it.

But then, it was only one of the things the Fifth Earl bought or commissioned on his versions of the Grand Tour — on which, exceptionally, he was accompanied by his wife, who obviously played an unusually important part in his decision-making. The tour is remarkably well recorded, through the survival of many



The Fifth Earl: detail from a bust by Pierre Etienne Monnot, c.1700

letters which went back and forth between members of the Earl's party on the road and retainers back home at Burghley.

It is disconcerting to observe that messages seem to have passed to and fro rather more quickly than one could now rely on by air mail between Italy and Britain. Most of these letters, so revealing in their personal detail,

are unpublished, so their exhibition this summer at Burghley is their first public outing.

A number of the works of art on show are fairly unremarkable — the contemporary equivalent of tourist souvenirs — but there are also some quite beautiful pieces, such as the set of eight miscellaneous Italian boxwood statuettes bought for "My Ladies Dressing

Room" and "My Ladies Closet" as well as the "Best Bed Chamber".

There is also a splendid hardstone cabinet given to the earl by Cosimo de' Medici and a pewter bouille table by Gerrit Jensen; and an incredibly fresh and unfaded tapestry (another antic discovery) of Bacchante and boys, commissioned by the Fifth Earl, though not actually on one of his tours.

Meanwhile, those familiar with the house itself will find some interesting changes. The entrance hall, red-wallpapered with white painted columns when last seen, has now been cleaned and redecorated to tone in with the honey-coloured scagliola recently found under the white paint. The Mattia Preti "Triumph of Time", valued 40 years ago at £27, has emerged sumptuously from its Japanese-financed cleaning.

And some other unexpected paintings have surfaced in the house-wide re-bang, such as Elisabetta Sirani's restrained "Judith with the Head of Holofernes" (little food for feminists here).

Of course, conserving a place like this is like repainting the Forth Bridge. But at least the imagination and enterprise with which Burghley is run deserve the attention of a wide and profitable selection of visitors: there is always something new to see.

John Russell Taylor

Monsters who are human, like us

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

His skill is in the assembly of the multi-fragmented testimony. At the outset the voices seem so diffuse that you wonder why the film must be four and a half hours long.

Bit by bit he uncovers a horror comic story of adventure and conspiracy, and the durability of men like Barbie. We learn from the testimonies how Barbie, after his war crimes, easily transferred to a role in American intelligence, was shipped by his new allies through "the rat run" serviced by the church in Italy to Bolivia, where he discovered new friends among the arms dealers, drug barons and the military dictatorship, for whom he organized a paramilitary force.

In the final sequence we see Barbie in the dock at Lyon: a frail, bewildered little man in whom it is impossible to identify the monster. This is Ophüls's most disturbing revelation: in all his films Barbie and the rest were not freaks of nature, or products of a special moment in history, but human beings all too much like the rest of us.

Britain keeps on fielding films, notably Bob Hoskins's first essay at direction, *The Ragged Dicks*. It is a strange tale, set in the midst of a violent war, sometimes somewhere and telling how a lad, deserting from the army, is obliged to dress as a woman and fall in with a band of gypsies, led by Hoskins. Shot in a rough and ready way, in Czechoslovakia, it would have benefited from a great deal more work on the script, but its ebullience and good intentions have charmed the audience in Cannes.

David Robinson



ROCK

Mac's knack

Fleetwood Mac Wembley Arena

What would have happened if, in 1967, the blues guitarist Peter Green had decided to call his group something other than a composite of the names of its drummer, Mick Fleetwood, and bass player, John McVie?

Perhaps the band would not have retained quite the same authoritative frisson of continuity as a succession of musicians passed through its ranks, eventually leaving that same rhythm section duo as the only constant factor in a bumpy 21-year process of evolution.

Certainly it was the presence of McVie and Fleetwood as joint leaders-from-behind that welded the disparate elements of the group's stage show into a coherent whole on the first night of a six-night residency at Wembley. The unflappable McVie, a rock star in whose image the "Celeb" cartoon in *Private Eye* was surely fashioned, roamed a small area towards the back of the stage with a detached, passionless air, while the gangling Fleetwood sat goggle-eyed behind his kit, making his very simple drum patterns appear extraordinarily difficult to play. Their musical rapport, which is based on a hand-in-glove understanding of the need to keep reliable, basic time, papered over the latest alarming cracks which have appeared in the group's fabric since, holding true to form, another key member left the fold on the eve of the current world tour.

The departed Lindsey Buckingham was the band's guitarist, singer and songwriter of 13 years standing and the principal architect of last year's *Tango In The Night*. That album is still near the top of the chart and has proved to be the group's most successful release since 1977's *Rumours*, which sold in excess of 20 million copies and did more than any other record to rekindle an interest in rock among a mellowing generation of Seventies' fans alienated by the gathering excesses of punk.

Buckingham has been replaced by two dapper young guitarists from California: Rick Vito, formerly of Bob Seger's band and Billy Burnette, the front man in Fleetwood's extra-curricular LA bar-band The Zoo. Their arrival in the ranks has sparked a mild renewal of interest in some of the earliest material in the Mac's bulging portfolio, and Burnette sang a jaunty version of the 1969 hit "Oh Well", while Vito played a sympathetic imitation of Peter Green's style on "I Loved Another Woman", a sinuous mambo-blues from the very first album.

But the focus of attention was more often drawn towards Christine McVie, who looked in good shape in her tight little pixie costume, and the swaying figure of Stevie Nicks, whose initial wedding cake ensemble gave way to a more familiar succession of billowing cloaks and fringed swaddling shawls.

It was these two who between them despatched the core of the show with a raft of misty, drifting, soft-centred material, for which the term *Adult Orientated Rock* might well have been coined: "Isn't It Midnight", "Little Lies", "Seven Wonders" and "Everywhere" from *Tango In The Night*; "Sara" from *Tusk*; and, with Burnette and Vito also to the fore, a rockier finale including "Go Your Own Way" and "Don't Stop" from *Rumours*.

McVie's calm, perfectly glazed voice contrasted engagingly with Nicks's sharp, tremulous tone. It was to the band's credit that, having skillfully developed such a dull strand of mass-consumption music, the mellifluous formula was never made to sound unduly slick.

The simple presentation was enhanced by the pretty effect of huge lighting canopies which moved above the stage, like a butterfly flapping its wings in slow motion, and the tasteful mood was only interrupted when Fleetwood came looming to the front and engaged in a singularly pointless piece of tomfoolery with some electronic drum pads concealed in his waistcoat and down the front of his trousers.

As it enters the third decade of its charmed existence Fleetwood Mac has become a dependable musical brand name — the rock group equivalent to Marks & Spencer, perhaps. But, in resisting the temptation to stage an extravagant, set-piece spectacle, they did at least keep an important human element intact in their show.

David Sinclair

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FRIDAY PAGE

Public opinion is often cited in defence of censorship, but public opinion has called for the burning of witches

There is a channel on New York cable television that has no programmes, only advertisements for strip clubs, escort agencies and similar services. When I switched on the television set in my hotel room a few months ago, three rather ordinary looking people wearing no clothes appeared sitting primly on a sofa, touting the pleasures of an evening at "Lou's". I was quite taken aback. But it turns out that the channel I saw in New York was a community access channel made available by the cable companies for local use and not run for profit. The marketplace in apparently soft-core pornography has turned out to be poor business: the Playboy channel has not done well.

I remember this, as the American experience of virtually unregulated television is cited in the growing clamour for more control of the media here. That mood has been fuelled by the antics of the tabloid Press, the battle between Government and newspapers over security issues, the apparent anti-establishment attitude of much of news and current affairs television, and the shock of moments like Hungerford and Enniskillen. For my part, the real problem seemed to surface with Mr Bernard Ingham's comment two weeks ago when he said that the standards of the media

had declined "to the point of institutionalized hysteria." This seemed to me a typical example of how a statement can be both right and wrong at the same time.

There is no doubt that the media can become hysterical about new subjects, whether it be crime, smoking, the environment, or the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The examples are frequent. The Prime Minister may be quite right in noting these hysterias, but one cannot help feeling that the Government may be wrong in reacting with a hysteria of its own. As I go over the various concerns that are being voiced by interested parties from Mary Whitehouse to Michael Grade, from the BBC's John Birt to the Press Council's Sir Zelman Cowan, one senses a confusion of issues.

Three major themes are apparent. First there is the concern about poor quality journalism with inaccurate facts and generally shoddy work. The BBC is to hire a "fact-checker" this autumn for its news department. Very good. There is no philosophical debate here, only a matter of professionalism. John Birt rightly eschews the idea of licensing journalists. He recognizes that journalists are not like doctors or accountants, who work within a tangible set of laws or body of science which can be tested. The skills of a journalist, like those required

for being a parent or indeed running for prime minister, are far too subtle for measurement and licensing.

The problem of inaccuracy becomes a matter of debate only when the question of redress is raised. Libel suits are too expensive for most people, it is argued, since legal aid does not cover this area. Furthermore, libel law in England does not offer journalists the defence of the public interest. My own feeling is that we are solving this problem in the worst possible way. If the law and procedures are deficient, surely those are the areas to correct rather than introducing another set of extra-legal regulations in the Broadcast Standards Council or giving the Press Council more coercive powers.

We could make sure that people are able to defend themselves against malice or inaccuracy by either extending legal aid to cover libel cases that are not judged to be mere nuisance suits or by permitting contingency legal fees. At the same time the law ought to recognize a



BARBARA AMIEL

journalist's defence of both fair comment and public interest. The second broad area of concern has to do with matters of taste. Should television show dead bodies after a massacre? Mr John Birt thinks that it is wrong to show the "innocent victim of a bank robbery lying on the pavement" and maintains that the "dead have their rights too". Such questions are, I think, the legitimate internal decision of any broadcaster. I begin to get anxious only when any group of people try to set the tone of what we should all think, and decide that women must be portrayed in a certain way or that so-called "sexist language" must be outlawed or that the realities of violence must be prohibited. Refraining from using certain words or shocking situations on television is simply a matter of good television manners. It is quite a different thing to censor realistic characterization and situations because they may offend some interest group's idea of what the world is

like. This is simply exchanging old myths for new ones.

Public opinion is often cited in defence of censorship. But public opinion, in a moment of hysteria, can and has called for the burning of witches or the abolition of certain fundamental principles of a free society. In the end, every television set comes equipped with an on and off switch which most clearly reflects public opinion. The new channels will require either direct subscription or paid advertising. No programmer can afford programmes that the public does not want. If there is no audience for bullet-ridden American series, they will be as rare on our screens as poetry readings.

No proven link between television violence and crime in society exists, as Sir William Rees-Mogg has pointed out. I am not sure, however, on what grounds he goes on to state that he feels sure such a link exists. Societies have had violent episodes throughout history without any form of mass communication. There may be more urban violence today than before videos, but this could be for a number of reasons. It may be, for example, the result of a changing social situation with an ethos in which some people are filled with all sorts of ambitions and ideas of entitlement

without the corresponding personal or social capacity to fulfil them.

The most worrying aspect in all these discussions, of course, is the implication of political censorship. Is television politically biased today in its domestic and foreign affairs reporting and analysis? I think I detect certain biases about the causes of poverty, crime and inequality on our television screens and might even agree that these biases are more often than not on the left of the political spectrum; but short of trying to see that on taxpayer-financed channels all points of view are represented, isn't any other cure worse than the disease?

For my part, I thought it profoundly disturbing to hear Mr Birt muddle the legitimate need for accuracy in news-reporting with the statement that he wants "value-free" political programming and to this end eschews the use of labels such as "moderate" or "hard-left". The dangerous waters of value-free journalism have haunted the West long before the "objective" newspaper reports of Nazism and the Soviet Union in the pre-war British press. It would be a great irony if the *The Singing Detective's* bare bottom or the fourth murder on *The A-Team* turned out to be a Trojan horse for the imposition of the political myths of either the Government of the day or the spirit of the times.



Bedfellows, business partners: Cilla Black and Bobby Willis, Suzi Quatro and Len Tuckey,

Anne Diamond and Mike Hollingsworth, John and Bo Derek, Joan Collins and Peter Holm

Success and the sleeping partner

Behind a successful woman may be not only a supportive man, but a supportive man who is also her manager. Victoria McKee reports

Anne Diamond's court case did more than bring a sparkle to the eyes of agents everywhere anxious about their 10 per cent. It has highlighted a relationship that some say is the successful woman's salvation: that of the sleeping partner. Miss Diamond's is Mike Hollingsworth, father of her child and guardian of her career.

The Diamond/Hollingsworth scenario is not a novel one: famous women frequently forsake impersonal agents for the managerial ministrations of the men who share their beds. Previous relevant experience is not a necessary qualification for the post of sleeping partner. Some men muscle in immediately to take charge, assuming it is their proprietorial prerogative; others insinuate themselves almost imperceptibly into the role.

Often the man will use his own income or influence to enhance the woman's prospects — as with Mike Hollingsworth — while others abandon any pretext of other employment, like Joan Collins's ex, Peter Holm — risking the label "kept man", "lay-about", or worse.

The arrangement can make sense for many reasons, and can be a face-saving exercise for both parties. It offers a man control over a career which might otherwise put him in the shade; it gives a woman the benefit of a round-the-

clock adviser — and the comfort that she is not just a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder. It also keeps the money in the family.

As the television presenter Floella Benjamin says of her husband, manager and agent Keith Taylor: "I know he won't sell me down the river, say one thing to me and another behind my back. We're a team — a business. We could just as well be a restaurant, with me out front and him behind the scenes."

Taylor says he started acting as his wife's agent because he was doing the job anyway, and got tired of the three-way conversations. Now he can close a deal without consultation.

There are three distinct manifestations of the sleeping partner relationship: the Svengali syndrome where a powerful, often older, man moulds a woman in his ideal image (as John Derek did with Ursula Andress, Linda Evans and Bo Derek); the Queen Bee dance, where a powerful, often older, woman promotes the current man in her life to the position of her "personal manager"; and mutual symbiosis, where each person's talents are recognized and nurtured by the other. In time, the first and the second can mellow into the third, given the right chemistry and conditions — as with Carlo Ponti and Sophia Loren, or Penelope Keith and her husband, Rodney Tinson.

Yet Mark McCormack, hopefully never need to know. The survival business is booming. It seems that as our creature comforts proliferate, so our desire to test our ability to survive in conditions familiar to our cave-person ancestors increases.

Forrester goes off on taxing jaunts into the British wilds twice a year. It was his interest in getting away from it all ("It is almost a comfortable sitting you get too comfortable sitting around in an armchair in London") that inspired him to write his handbook. He wanted to make the book inflatable, but the publishers balked and have come up with a hardback that is so hard that you could, should the need arise, stun a rabbit with it.

Forrester admits that when he, his

head of the influential International Management Group, condemns the whole concept of the sleeping partner. "You want to be in a position, as a client, to sue your agent, and as an agent to sue your client," he says wryly, "and generally a romantic relationship is complicated enough without trying to inject business into it. But I suppose it's an easy way for a husband or lover to make a living."

Dennis Selinger, of International Creative Management, agent for Faye Dunaway, Jenny Seagrove, Francesca Annis, and many other famous actresses, is more tolerant of such arrangements. "In some cases it's quite successful," he maintains. "It's a normal male instinct to become proprietorial towards a talented partner. Then her success becomes his. But it can be dangerous when he knows very little about the business."

The photographer Terry O'Neill was a strong influence on the career of Faye Dunaway during their seven-year marriage. "Terry was dominant in the relationship and did a lot to help Faye," Selinger recalls. And his client Suzi Quatro is successfully managed by her husband Len Tuckey, formerly the lead guitarist in her band. But

once made the mistake of handing over her career to her latest love interest — Jon Peters, her former hairdresser. He produced *A Star is Born*, causing one studio head to lament: "How do I tell my shareholders that a hairdresser is handling our multimillion dollar picture?" The film was not the expected success. Streisand and Peters split up several years later and he now runs one of the most successful independent Hollywood production companies.

It is hard to imagine women as strong and independent as Cher, Raquel Welch or Tina Turner letting a man call the tune — but all three of them did at one time. Sonny Bono (now Mayor of Palm Springs) discovered and promoted Cher — very successfully. But it was only after she made the break from Sonny that Cher finally came into her own as a serious actress, culminating in her Oscar for *Moonstruck*.

Raquel Welch, her image and career remodelled by her second husband, Patrick Curtis, found herself stuck in pneumatic goddess roles going nowhere. She ditched Curtis.

Tina Turner, after her split with her partner and manager, Ike, managed to build a second and even more successful career. Olivia Newton John, now married to actor Matt Lattanzi, formerly lived with a shoe magnate who had sole control over her professional life. When they parted company, she broke into films like *Grease* and became a success-

ful businesswoman (a partner in 16 Koala Blue boutiques).

The career of another Australian singer, Helen Reddy, is a rare exception: her career was magnificently handled by Jeff Wald, her husband and manager (he also managed Sylvester Stallone and Chicago, the rock group). When Reddy divorced him, her career took a dive from which it has never fully recovered.

Despite the horror stories, there is one marriage and career partnership in Hollywood that suggests that it can work: Ann-Margret's career has been managed for more than 25 years by her husband, Roger Smith — a former actor.

Ivor Davis

Tracking down survival skills in deepest SW15

Never leave home without packing your tin of curry powder — armchair travellers should be prepared to whip up a meal from maggots

It could be very useful to know, should you be stranded many miles from civilization and Sainsbury's, that pound for pound the common garden worm is more nutritious than beef. If you could also muster a few bird's eggs, you could make a "yummy" worm omelette — "one of the greatest things you'll ever taste" according to Martyn Forrester.

The only jungle 35-year-old Forrester has any real experience of is the advertising one, where the expense account lunches cannot be as wonderful as they are cracked up to be if his opinion on worm omelette is anything to go by. Now, in darkest Putney, he has put together a blood-curdling book called *The Survival Skills Handbook*, which tells you everything you will

hopefully never need to know. The survival business is booming. It seems that as our creature comforts proliferate, so our desire to test our ability to survive in conditions familiar to our cave-person ancestors increases.

Forrester goes off on taxing jaunts into the British wilds twice a year. It was his interest in getting away from it all ("It is almost a comfortable sitting you get too comfortable sitting around in an armchair in London") that inspired him to write his handbook. He wanted to make the book inflatable, but the publishers balked and have come up with a hardback that is so hard that you could, should the need arise, stun a rabbit with it.

Forrester admits that when he, his



Martyn Forrester: busily taking a leaf from his own handbook

wife Evie, 34, and daughters Louise, five, and Catherine, 17, months, retired to the good life on Guernsey where he was bought up, the experiment was a dismal failure. "We missed the buzz of London and would hop on a plane just to go to a dinner party."

Some of the topics which might

be mullied over on such occasions are nuggets of information such as turtle blood is good for you; before cooking monkeys or rats you should first sing off their fur; wait for sheep to fall asleep before you bunk one on the head for supper; use condoms as catapults and always pack a tub of curry powder along

with your sultan oil in case you should need to disguise the taste of maggots.

If any of this makes you feel slightly queasy, the table of tolerable levels of insects allowed to live in our everyday food, according to the Public Health Service of America's food and drug administration, is unlikely to make you feel any better. Chocolate, for example, may have up to 60 microscopic insect segments per 100 grammes sample.

According to Forrester, statistics prove that women seem to have walked away from situations like the ones he describes in his book — air crashes, broken down vehicles in deserts, avalanches or ship wrecks — more often than men. "I am convinced survival is a mental thing," he says, "and women are more practical up top than men."

Heather Kirby
The Survival Skills Handbook by Martyn Forrester is published by Sphere Books (£10.95).

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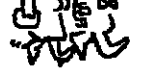
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THEATRE

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT**: Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underclass friends; splendid cast led by Rick Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorton, Simon Phoenix, Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-336 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8.10-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £6-£14.50.

★ **EASY VIRTUE**: Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1936 with Jane How scandalizing her teenage husband's faithful county folk. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 5107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm and Sat 5.15pm, £7.15pm, £7.50-£12.50.

★ **THE FIFTEEN STREETS**: Shipbuilder's daughter falls in love with George, a dock worker in a version of Catherine Cookson's famous novel. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-336 4455). Tube: Embankment. Opens tonight 7.45-9.45pm, then Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £5-£14.50.

★ **MARRIED LOVE**: New Peter Luke play starring Susan Hampshire as Marie Slopes, mother of birth control. Directed by Joan Plowright. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 901-936 3028. Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £5-7.15pm, £5.50-£13.50.

★ **THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY**: Anthony Gray's grimy thriller of a Tourneur's gritty historical classic. The Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (01-638 8891). Tube: Barbican/Moorgate/St Paul's. Preview on May 22, 7.30-10.30pm. Opens May 23, 7.10pm, then in rep, £2-£10.

★ **SOFIA**: Madeline Bellamy in a dramatization of the life of Mrs. Topsy, neurotic wife of a passionate victim. New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 7-794 0022. Tube: Hampstead. Tues-Sun, 8pm, £5-50-55.

★ **STARS IN THE MORNING SKY**: First visit to the West by the Maly Theatre of Leningrad, bringing a play about prostitutes exiled from Moscow during the 1980 Olympics. A sensation in Russia. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-746 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.15pm, £2.

★ **ZIEGFELD**: Spectacular musical based on the life of the man who made the famous Follies, and costing a bomb. London Palladium, 3 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £2.45-5.30pm, £3.25-£21.

★ **LONG RUNNERS**: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1186). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfield, 3 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). ★ Cat: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Cat: 01-404 4078. ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfield, 3 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). ★ Cat: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Cat: 01-404 4078.

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Theatre (01-434 0309). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443).

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT**: Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underclass friends; splendid cast led by Rick Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorton, Simon Phoenix, Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-336 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8.10-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £6-£14.50.

★ **EASY VIRTUE**: Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1936 with Jane How scandalizing her teenage husband's faithful county folk. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 5107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm and Sat 5.15pm, £7.15pm, £7.50-£12.50.

★ **THE FIFTEEN STREETS**: Shipbuilder's daughter falls in love with George, a dock worker in a version of Catherine Cookson's famous novel. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-336 4455). Tube: Embankment. Opens tonight 7.45-9.45pm, then Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £5-£14.50.

★ **MARRIED LOVE**: New Peter Luke play starring Susan Hampshire as Marie Slopes, mother of birth control. Directed by Joan Plowright. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 901-936 3028. Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £5-7.15pm, £5.50-£13.50.

★ **THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY**: Anthony Gray's grimy thriller of a Tourneur's gritty historical classic. The Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (01-638 8891). Tube: Barbican/Moorgate/St Paul's. Preview on May 22, 7.30-10.30pm. Opens May 23, 7.10pm, then in rep, £2-£10.

★ **SOFIA**: Madeline Bellamy in a dramatization of the life of Mrs. Topsy, neurotic wife of a passionate victim. New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 7-794 0022. Tube: Hampstead. Tues-Sun, 8pm, £5-50-55.

★ **STARS IN THE MORNING SKY**: First visit to the West by the Maly Theatre of Leningrad, bringing a play about prostitutes exiled from Moscow during the 1980 Olympics. A sensation in Russia. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-746 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.15pm, £2.

★ **ZIEGFELD**: Spectacular musical based on the life of the man who made the famous Follies, and costing a bomb. London Palladium, 3 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, £2.45-5.30pm, £3.25-£21.

★ **LONG RUNNERS**: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1186). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfield, 3 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). ★ Cat: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Cat: 01-404 4078.

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Modern jazz - classic styles

For a jazz group to last a decade is a something of an achievement. To last 36 years, as the Modern Jazz Quartet has done, is little short of a miracle. It is certainly a tribute to the vision of the musical director John Lewis, whose contributions as the keyboardist is normally overshadowed by the flamboyant soloing of the vibraphonist Milt Jackson. For all its baroque poise, the MJQ originally developed out of the rhythm section of Dizzy Gillespie's bebop orchestra. By 1955 the quartet had arrived at its present formation, with Percy Heath on bass and Connie Kay at the drums. Many of the compositions - including "Evidense" and "Concorde" - are evidence of Lewis's interest in classical forms, but the blues tradition is well represented in "Remembrance Blues" and "Bag's Groove". The punctilious, dinner-jacket approach has always alienated some jazz lovers, however, and the decision to disband in 1974 was not universally mourned. By 1981 the group was back together again, and playing with the same degree of authority. Last year's album, *Three Windows*, from the New York Chamber Symphony - included new versions of Lewis's score for



Bass rhythms: Percy Heath performs with the Modern Jazz Quartet in the 1957 Roger Vadim film *Non Sun In Venice*. There was space too for yet another re-working of the timeless "Django". The MJQ

make a one-off appearance tonight at St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236) 7.30pm, £5-£11.50. *Cine Davis*

★ **WALL STREET** (15): Michael Douglas was an Oscar as the amoral wheeler-dealer, Charlie Sheen co-stars as his naive protégé (126 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-332 5096). Progs 2.35, 5.40, 8.25.

★ **THE RAKE'S PROGRESS**: Stravinsky's classic presented by Opera Intergal as part of the Bloomsbury Festival. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 8629). 7.30-10pm, £5-27.50.

★ **CANDIDE**: Scottish Opera mount a newly-adapted version of Leonard Bernstein's opera. The Lyceum, London WC2 (01-332 1234). 7.15-10.30pm, £2-21.

★ **DON GIOVANNI**: Revival of Adrian Noble's production for Kent Opera. Now conducted by Ivan Fischer and with Peter Knapp in the title role. The Lyceum, London WC2 (01-332 1234). 7.15-10.30pm, £2-21.

★ **NO SCHUBERT**: Rather than Schubert, the Schubert Ensemble of London play Beethoven's String Trio Op 9 No 1, Faure's Piano Quartet Op 15 and Martin's String Quartet (1942). Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). 7.30pm, £2.50-£25.50.

★ **HEAR HOGWOOD**: The Academy of Ancient Music is conducted by Christopher Hogwood in Mozart's Symphony No 41 "Jupiter". Haydn's Glass harmonica playing in the Concerto K 537 "Coronation" with Mervyn Tan (fortepiano) as soloist. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC1 (01-638 8891). 7.45-9.45pm, £5-21.

★ **FIRST COCKFIGHT**: Under the baton of Oliver Knussen the London Sinfonietta gives the first performance of Robin Holloway's "Cockfight". Concerto for alto saxophone, clarinet and double bass. There is the world premiere, too, of Takemitsu's *Theatre*, and it all begins with Elliott Carter's *Pentode*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 3191). 01-828 8800, 7.45pm, £2-23.

★ **MUNRO MUSIC**: The pianist Ian Munro gives the UK premiere of Pollard's *Kreke*, Kerry's *Winter through Glass* and the new *Winter through Glass*. St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236). 7.30pm, £5-£11.50.

★ **THE BEAT FARMERS**: Razor-edged American roots-rock with humorous interludes. Mervyn Fiddler, 25a Hartesden High Street, London NW10 (01-961 5490). 8pm, £5.

★ **HEAD**: Garth Sager's sublime sleaze-rock creation undertaken a short tour to promote its ambitious second album, *Tales of Ordinary Madness*. Mervyn Fiddler, 25a Hartesden High Street, London NW10 (01-961 5490). 8pm, £5.

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★ **RY COODER**: The original world musician and originator of many a sleazy slide-guitar sound, touring with his Mousa-Banda Rhythm Aces, which includes accordionist Pato Jimenez and vocalist Bobby King. Edinburgh Playhouse, 18-21 Grassmarket Place (01-557 2550) 7.30pm, £5.50-£9.50.

★ **LLANGOLLEN JAZZ FESTIVAL**: The three-day event is launched with a re-creation of the Benny Goodman sound by the Bob Wiper Orchestra. Plas Glyn Iŷaf, Llangollen, Chwyd (01-978 861616) 8pm, £4.50.

★ **MOSE ALLISON**: The urbane blues pianist-vocalist takes charge at the supper club until May 28th. Place On The Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5273) 9.15pm, ring for prices.

★ **SHAW SOCIETY LECTURE**: Benny Green talks on Edith Nesbit. Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 (01-235 5273) 7.30pm, £5-11.50.

★ **GREEN PARTY EDUCATION CONFERENCE**: Two days exploring the needs for change in the present state of the education system. St John's College, Brighton (01-275 27778), tomorrow and Sun 8am, free.

★ **A CITY IN THE BLITZ - CHURCHILL'S WAR ROOMS**: meet Westminster tube, 2.30pm, £2 (also next Fri).

★ **SAILORTOWN WATERFRONT VILLAGES**: meet Tower Hill tube, 11am, £2 (also next Fri).

★ **ABORIGINAL VIEWS**: Power and prints by young Aboriginal artists continuing their people's historic traditions of pattern and symbol. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-833 4235). Mon-Sat 10-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until July 3.

★ **ELEVEN ARTISTS FROM PAULA COOPER**: Sculptors Carl Andre, Donald Judd and Joel Shapiro are among the artists from Cooper's New York Gallery. Meyer Rowan Gallery, 31 Strutton Place, London W1 (01-498 5811). Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until June 16.

★ **MOMENTS OF BEING**: An Arts Council touring show of 60 paintings from Constable to Pollock. The Lyceum, London WC2 (01-332 1234). 7.15-10.30pm, £2-21.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 **Coastal AM**. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletin.
- 6.40 **Leam Enrol in Moving Vanities** (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 **Regional news and weather** followed by **Open Air**. Viewers have the chance of choosing their favourite Paul Harvey/Crisis Series **The Deep End** programme from the ones which involved acting, ballroom dancing and snooker. 9.30 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Gordon's studio discussion on medical mistakes.
- 10.00 **News and weather** followed by **Four Square**. Quiz game presented by Michael Groth (r).
- 10.55 **Children's BBC**. Andy Croft and his friends and birthday greetings followed by **Play School**, presented by Jane Hardy with guest Mike Amatt (r).
- 11.00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air** with the result of **The Deep End** vote. Includes news and weather at 11.00, 11.30 and 11.55. Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30. **Neighbours**. A central gang arrives at the Robinson house - but is he what he seems?
- 1.40 **Film: Tip on a Dead Jockey** (1957, b/w) starring Robert Taylor and Glynis Johns. Drama about an ex-jockey who takes to smuggling in Spain when his nerves and livelihood disappear. Directed by Richard Thorpe.
- 3.25 **Lifeline**. The latest charity news and an appeal on behalf of the Medical Aid for Poland Fund (r).

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Science - the Periodic Table**. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 **Coastal**.
- 9.30 **Daytime on Two** who benefits from international aid? 9.55 **Two Views of a playground** from 10.15. **German 10.30** The changing countryside 11.00. **Storytime** 11.15. **Mindstretchers** 11.25. **Context** 11.35. A small town comes with a boom 12.00. **The power of language** 12.35. Drama about an unmarried mother living with her parents 1.05. **German 1.20** For the young 1.35. **The importance of narrative** 2.00. **News** and weather followed by **Children's Series** 2.15. **Weekend Outlook** (r).
- 2.30 **A Passage to Wisbech** on the 30-year-old coaster **Carriack** (r).
- 3.00 **News and weather** followed by **The World About Us: Into Oris** (r). 3.30 **News**, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 **Dr Kildare**. Episode one (r).
- 4.25 **Holiday Outings**. A snooker weekend (r). 4.30 **Midweek**. Three travel films (r). 5.25 **The Travel Show** Guide to Majorca (r).

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cartoon Double Bill**. 3.50 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon 4.00 **Caterpillar Trail** leads to dogs 4.15. **Wacky Races** (r).
- 4.25 **Film: Terry on the Fence** (1965) starring Jack Nicholson as a 11-year-old runaway who is joined by a juvenile gang to take part in a robbery at his school. Directed by Frank Godwin. The first of a series of 12 made for the Children's Film and TV Foundation. 6.35 **Neighbours** (r).
- 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather.
- 6.35 **London Plus** presented by Lucy Mearns. Steve Clarke and Richard Bate.
- 7.00 **Wogan**. On tonight's guest list are rock star Rod Stewart; Germaine Greer; Joanne Foster, head of the Equal Opportunities Commission; and actor Ray Barrett.
- 7.40 **Every Second Counts**. Comedy quiz show presented by Paul Daniels.
- 8.15 **Dynasty**. Sammy Jo is smitten once more. Steven, Adam and Fallon receive a shock when they learn who has been buying Carrington stock; and Alexis takes her time as Sean plays fast and loose with Leslie. (Coefax)
- 9.00 **News with Nicholas Witchell** and Andrew Harvey. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 **Rocky Horror's Babes**. Rocky Horror leads a raid on the Rock of Horror and discovers evidence that leads him to unearth a 15-year old murder mystery. Starring Ian Hogg (r). (Coefax)
- 10.20 **OmniBus: Lucian Freud** (see Choice)
- 11.05 **Film: White Lightning** (1973) starring Burt Reynolds. Jennifer Belling and Ned Beatty. On parole, Gator McKusky helps the authorities to nail the bootlegging sheriff who murdered his brother. Directed by Richard Brooks.
- 12.45 **News**.

BBC2

- 6.00 **Film: A Date With the Falcon** (1942, b/w) starring George Sanders and Wendy Barrie. Falcon, the gentleman sleuth, is called in by the police when a secret formula disappears. Directed by Irving Reis.
- 7.05 **Film: Silvers as Sergeant Bilko** in **Love for a Housewife** (b/w) (r).
- 7.30 **On the House**. The last in a home refurbishment series.
- 8.00 **Weekend**. Events in the east and around the London area.
- 8.30 **Gardeners' World**.
- 9.00 **Blackadder the Third**. The Prince Regent and his butler meet at a secret formula disappears. Directed by Richard Brooks.
- 9.30 **Review** includes a tribute to Ian Hogg; and items on Wim Wenders and Leonard Cohen.
- 10.05 **Secrets Revealed**. A week in the life of a Social Security officer.
- 10.45 **Newsnight** includes a report from Hungary on the attempts to oust the country's President Kadar 11.30 **Weather**.
- 11.35 **Atlantic at 40**. The fourth of five programmes of highlights of a New York concert. Ends at 12.30am.

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- 8.00 **Weekend**. Events in the east and around the London area.
- 8.30 **Gardeners' World**.
- 9.00 **Blackadder the Third**. The Prince Regent and his butler meet at a secret formula disappears. Directed by Richard Brooks.
- 9.30 **Review** includes a tribute to Ian Hogg; and items on Wim Wenders and Leonard Cohen.
- 10.05 **Secrets Revealed**. A week in the life of a Social Security officer.
- 10.45 **Newsnight** includes a report from Hungary on the attempts to oust the country's President Kadar 11.30 **Weather**.
- 11.35 **Atlantic at 40**. The fourth of five programmes of highlights of a New York concert. Ends at 12.30am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with **The Sports Show** introduced by Geoff Clark; 6.30 **The Morning Programme** with Richard Kay; 7.00 **Good Morning Britain**; 8.00 **Boatjour Britain**. Jayne Irving reports from the Cannes Film Festival. After Nine includes Russell Grant's astrology slot.
- 9.25 **Thames News**.
- 9.30 **Cross Wit**. Word game presented by Tom O'Connor. The guests are Rachel Heyhoe-Flint and Windsor Davies 10.00 **Santa Barbara** 10.25 **News** headlines.
- 10.30 **The Times**. The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on why some men pay for sex. The guests include Lord Longford and Cynthia Payne 11.10 **Rainbow**. Puppet series (r). 11.25 **Thames news** headlines.
- 11.30 **A Language for Ben**. The first of an award-winning two-part film about the personal life of a boy who is deaf (r). 12.00 **The Krypton Factor**. The second heat of Group C (r). 12.30 **The Sullivan**. Australian drama serial set in the 1940s.
- 1.00 **News at One** with Julia Somerville 1.20 **Thames news** 1.30 **Rainbow** and **Hopkirk (Deceased)**. Private detective series (r).
- 2.30 **8 to 5**. American comedy series about office life 3.00 **Take the High Road**. Inverloch's sister and her husband Ben and comes under threat from the developers.
- 4.00 **Station Moon** (r). 4.10 **The Telegraph** (r). 4.20 **Scooby Doo**. Cartoon series includes trips to a wildlife sanctuary in Dorset; behind the scenes of a new television series; and a pilot scheme to provide a different kind of care for women suffering with mental health problems; and a review of **Moby and Dan** Lee's book **Travelling in Retirement**.
- 5.00 **News**; Adam Bode; by George Eliot, last of six parts; with Terry Molloy, Sally Girdling, Tim Brierley and Gillian Goodman (s).
- 4.00 **News**.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 **Schools**. 12.00 **Nature in Focus** examines worms (r).
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. 1.00 **On Course** presented by Anna Ford.
- 2.00 **The Parliament Programme**. 2.30 **Film: Minding the Rahn** (1956, b/w) starring Jane Wyman and Van Johnson. Romantic drama about a New York typist who falls in love with a man who is only to be re-united with him in death. Directed by Rudolph Mabo.
- 4.30 **Sounddown**. Today's challenge: a New York Times crossword puzzle. 5.00 **Winners**. A film made by the Australian Children's Television Foundation about a young schoolboy who is a champion chess player. With his classmates' wrath because of his photographic memory.
- 5.55 **Murder** Buchan's **Magnum**. 6.00 **The Chart Show**. 7.00 **Cherry 4** News and weather 7.55 **Book Choice**. Author and film critic Richard Mayne on Ingrid Bergman's autobiography **The Magic Lantern**. (Oracle)
- 8.00 **What the Papers Say** with Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*.
- 8.15 **Dispatches** reports on the 13-year-old war in the Sahara between Morocco and the Polisario.
- 9.00 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy series.
- 9.30 **A Gardener's Guide**. Part six - **Flowering** (Oracle).
- 10.00 **Comedy**. Comedy series set in a Boston bar. (Oracle).
- 10.30 **The Last Resort** with Jonathan Ross. The guests are film director John Waters; country and singer Linda Ronstadt; and entertainer Rolf Harris.
- 11.15 **Wired**. Pop music programme. The guests include Run DMC, Joni Mitchell and Prince.
- 12.15 **Film: Boon** (1969) starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Drama, based on a Tennessee Williams play about a much-married, dying, shrill of a woman who is visited on her Mediterranean island by a poet who is known as the Angel of Death. Directed by Joseph Losey. Ends at 2.20.

CHANNEL 4

- 11.35 **The Man from UNCLE** (r).
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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1408.1 (-17.3)	US dollar 1.8685 (+0.0055)
FT-SE 100 1760.6 (-17.0)	W. German mark 3.1731 (-0.0008)
USM (Datastream) 154.06 (-1.19)	Trade-weighted 78.4 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

New loan powers for societies

Building societies are to be allowed to offer unsecured bridging loans to home buyers, following a Government review of the new powers given the societies under the Building Societies Act.

Previously, the societies were only able to offer bridging finance if it was secured on the property being bought. Now such security is not necessary, as long as the loan being offered is not greater than the value of the property involved.

The rule change should make it easier and cheaper for home buyers to raise bridging loans when selling one house and buying another.

Prowing price

Prowing, the house-builder, has been valued at £104 million at the offer-for-sale price of 165p a share. The group is raising £19.1 million of new money. Application lists open next Wednesday and dealings start on June 2.

Tempos, page 26

Gerrard drop

Gerrard & National, the discount house, yesterday reported a sharp drop in profits, from £11.2 million to £7 million, for the 12 months to March 4. But the company increased its dividend payment by 5.9 per cent, to 18p.

Tempos, page 26

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	Dow Jones 1944.63 (-6.48)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average 27373.24 (-394.34)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng 2506.76 (-26.50)
Amsterdam	Gen 229.0 (-4.1)
Sydney	AO 1442.6 (-10.8)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank 1314.1 (-25.0)
Brussels	General 4651.2 (-40.8)
Paris	CAC 3860.0 (-12.2)
Zurich	SKA Gen 455.2 (-3.1)
London	FT-A All-Share 909.68 (-7.82)
	FT-100 895.00 (-10.2)
	FT Gold Mines 200.5 (+2.5)
	FT Fixed Interest 98.13 (+0.8)
	FT Govt Secs 89.97 (-0.06)
Recent issues	Page 28
Closing prices	Page 31

MAIN-PRICE CHANGES	
REGES	
Desoutter	2795p (+19p)
Kleen-Eze	590p (+10p)
Ruberoid	1925p (+25p)
M. Clark	380p (+10p)
Morland	515p (+10p)
Candover	330p (+10p)
Elys (Wimbledon)	6875p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Tate & Lyle	750p (-14p)
Christies Int'l	525p (-21p)
Parish	180p (-15p)
Beecham	542p (-12p)
Avon Rubber	550p (-40p)
Cookson	5085p (-10p)
Glaxo	903p (-15p)
Cowder Group	360p (-13p)
Brown Shipley	372p (-10p)
Reuters	4495p (-13p)
ICI	9555p (-18p)
Gerrard & Nat	315p (-17p)
Pearson	674p (-18p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	24957

INTEREST RATES	
London Bank Base	7 1/2%
3-month interbank 7 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills 7 1/2%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 9%	
Federal Funds 7%	
3-month Treasury Bills 6.12-6.10%	
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%	
CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£ \$1.8685	£ \$1.8672
£ DM1.731	£ DM1.7002
£ FF12.640	£ FF12.4170
£ FF110.7380	£ FF110.7525
£ Yen232.85	£ Yen124.82
£ Indec78.4	£ Indec53.3
ECU £0.666168	SDR £0.737254

GOLD	
London Fixing:	
AM \$458.55 pm \$457.90	
close \$458.00-458.50 (\$245.50-246.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$458.00-458.50	

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (June)	pm \$18.50/bbl
* Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES
STOCK WATCH
0898 141 141

● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers: ● Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250

● Quick check of share prices: Leaders A-K 0898 121240; Leaders L-Z 0898 121241; Popular shares 0898 121277.

● Details, page 26

Let Rowntree shareholders have the final say

6 Since we made our offer for Rowntree, a number of issues have been debated in public. It is being asked why a "foreign" company should be allowed to take over an established British organization, and, in particular, why Swiss companies can mount bids for British companies when British companies—so it is believed—have no reciprocal rights under Swiss law. We are also being asked, quite rightly, what will happen to Rowntree after the merger.



Helmut Maucher: 'We had to act'

Our plans for Rowntree are in line with our management philosophy—we will give Rowntree's management the maximum practical autonomy, and we want York to continue as the centre of Rowntree's activities. Because we envisage faster growth for the Rowntree brands, and because there is so little production overlap between our businesses, we expect to expand Rowntree's operations with the minimum disruption.

Although Nestlé's headquarters are in Switzerland, our British roots run deep. We have been in the UK for more than 120 years. We have annual sales in this country of more than £800 million and the foods we produce and sell include Branston Pickle, Findus frozen foods, Nescafé coffee and Milky Bar.

Nestlé was reluctant to make its bid for Rowntree without the

support and recommendation of Rowntree's board of directors. We have never before made a contested bid of this kind, but Jacobs Suchard's pre-emptive action in building up a stake in Rowntree created a situation where we had to act. We are convinced that Nestlé is the best partner for Rowntree, and will provide the best support for Rowntree's excellent brands.

Our belief that there should be a closer collaboration between Nestlé and Rowntree goes back some years. The two companies are a perfect fit in a number of ways. Over the last 12 months it became apparent to us that Rowntree was

Helmut Maucher, the managing director of Nestlé, says a great deal of nonsense has been spoken about 'reciprocity'

vulnerable. As well as discussing with Rowntree the possibility of local commercial co-operation, we also talked about using a minority stake that would deter predators. These talks were friendly and it remains our hope that contact between ourselves and Rowntree will resume in this spirit.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked about reciprocity in takeovers. We have heard much about uneven playing fields and brick walls across goals. The truth is rather different.

Given the number of Swiss companies that have been acquired by British companies in recent years, it is difficult to argue convincingly that there is any lack of reciprocity between Britain and Switzerland. Over the last year, Blue Circle, Queens Meat Houses and John Crowther have bought Swiss companies. Two of our 'heritage'

watch-making companies, Baume & Mercier and Piaget, were recently acquired by Cartier, which is itself owned ultimately by Rothschild International, a UK company.

There is no law in Switzerland prohibiting the takeover of Swiss companies by foreigners. Swiss companies, including Nestlé, may provide in their articles of association to refuse to register any shareholder, be they Swiss or foreign. But the registered shareholders of companies that choose to restrict their ownership in this way pay dearly for it, since restricted shares trade at a much lower price than freely transferable shares.

Even where restrictions on shareholdings exist, it is possible for a determined bidder, paying the right price, to overcome them. If Nestlé shareholders were to receive an offer as generous as ours for Rowntree—effectively doubling the value of their shares—then they could accept it if they wished. Swiss procedures are different from British practices, but, as in Britain, it all comes down in the end to what shareholders want. Rowntree shareholders have already demonstrated their wishes and sold nearly half the company to Suchard or ourselves.

Many countries, including Britain, allow companies to defend themselves through their voting structures or other means. It is rather odd to single out Switzerland. The US experiences excessive litigation

and allows "poison pill" tactics. Canada has laws against inward investment in certain sectors. West German and Swedish companies are allowed to limit voting rights.

In Britain a number of big public companies are protected through their constitution or voting structure. These include Trusthouse Forte, Great Universal Stores, P&O, Reuters, Savoy Hotel and Wellcome. In addition there are the virtually unassailable private companies such as Littlewoods, Heron International and C&J Clark. The clearing banks are protected through the Bank of England's influence over large shareholdings, and many privatized companies—British Telecom, British Gas, British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce and BAA—are protected through golden shares. Numerous other British companies restrict voting rights in one way or another.

British companies have made large acquisitions abroad and will continue to do so. The free flow of capital is at least as important to Britain as it is to Switzerland. I believe Rowntree shareholders should be left free to accept Nestlé's offer if they wish. I am sure the British Government will consider these issues in a fair and objective manner. It would be regrettable if a combination of emotion and misunderstanding were to raise discriminatory barriers now.

EEC sees no threat to competition

By Jonathan Braude and Cliff Feltham

Mr Peter Sutherland, the European Competition Commissioner, will not intervene in Nestlé's controversial takeover bid for Rowntree, in spite of urgent representations by Mr Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman, during his visit to Strasbourg yesterday.

The commissioner indicated there was no real evidence the takeover will distort competition. After the meeting, Mr Dixon would not give any indication of Mr Sutherland's reaction to his argument that "reciprocity" is a vital element in the EEC's bid for a single market by 1992.

Rowntree's campaign, to have the bid investigated by the Monopolies Commission, has entered a crucial stage with indications that the Office of Fair Trading is about to hand its recommendation to Lord Young of Grafton, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

Jacobs Suchard, which owns 29 per cent of Rowntree, looks unlikely to counter-bid before Lord Young's decision.

Record £8.2bn lending fuels credit worries

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Bank and building society lending surged ahead by a record £8.2 billion last month, adding to fears that the Chancellor's policy of cutting interest rates to restrain sterling is producing a credit explosion.

But market reaction to the figures was muted because of the continued firmness of sterling and the belief that, in spite of the lending boom, interest rates will not be raised until sterling falls.

The pound held strong near the previous day's levels against the mark, closing at DM3.1731, and rose by more than half a cent to \$1.8665. The sterling index rose by 0.1 of a point to 78.4.

Money market traders, while concerned about the money supply figures, said a further half-point cut in base rates—to 7 per cent—could not be ruled out.

"People have good experience of not looking at the money supply for its effect on

interest rates, but together with yesterday's other figures, a more awful set of data has not been seen for a long time," said Mr Richard Jeffrey, director of economic research at Hoare Govett.

The figures showed that the M3 measure of the money supply rose 1.5 per cent last month, with bank lending up by a record £5.8 billion, compared with a £4.5 billion rise in March. The 12-month

rate of growth of M3 eased to 19.3 per cent from 20.9 per cent in March, but this was largely due to erratic differences in the public sector borrowing requirement compared with a year earlier.

The wider M4 measure, which the Government now uses as the basis for funding policy, rose 1 per cent, for a 12-month growth rate of 15.9 per cent, down from 16.8 per cent in March for similar reasons to the apparent M3 slowdown. Bank and building

society lending together rose by a record £8.2 billion, after a £6.8 billion March increase. The Government's targeted money measure, M0, rose by 0.9 per cent last month, for a 12-month growth rate of 5.9 per cent, above the new 1 to 5 per cent target range.

"These figures confirmed what people thought—that the monetary background is very poor and the mix of exchange and interest rates is bad," said Mr John Sheppard, an economist at Warburg Securities.

Detailed figures from the Committee of London and Scottish Bankers suggested that there might have been some switch in corporate borrowing to the clearing banks, and away from market-related borrowing.

The two most striking increases in lending were to manufacturing, up £656 million, and to securities dealers, up £831 million. There was continued strong growth in lending to property companies, up £190 million.

Output falls 1% in first quarter

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Further evidence of a slowdown in the economy—contradicting the message from bank lending and recent surveys by the Confederation of British Industry—is contained in the latest figures on industrial production. After rising strongly throughout the last two years, production fell 1 per cent during the first quarter of this year.

The fall partly reflects a low level of production in the energy sector. North Sea oil and gas output has continued to decline gradually, mild weather kept demand unseasonably low, and disputes hit the coal industry.

But manufacturing output has also slowed. In the first quarter it made no progress on the fourth quarter of last year, leading the Central Statistical Office to reduce again its estimate of the underlying rate of increase. The CSO now thinks manufacturing output

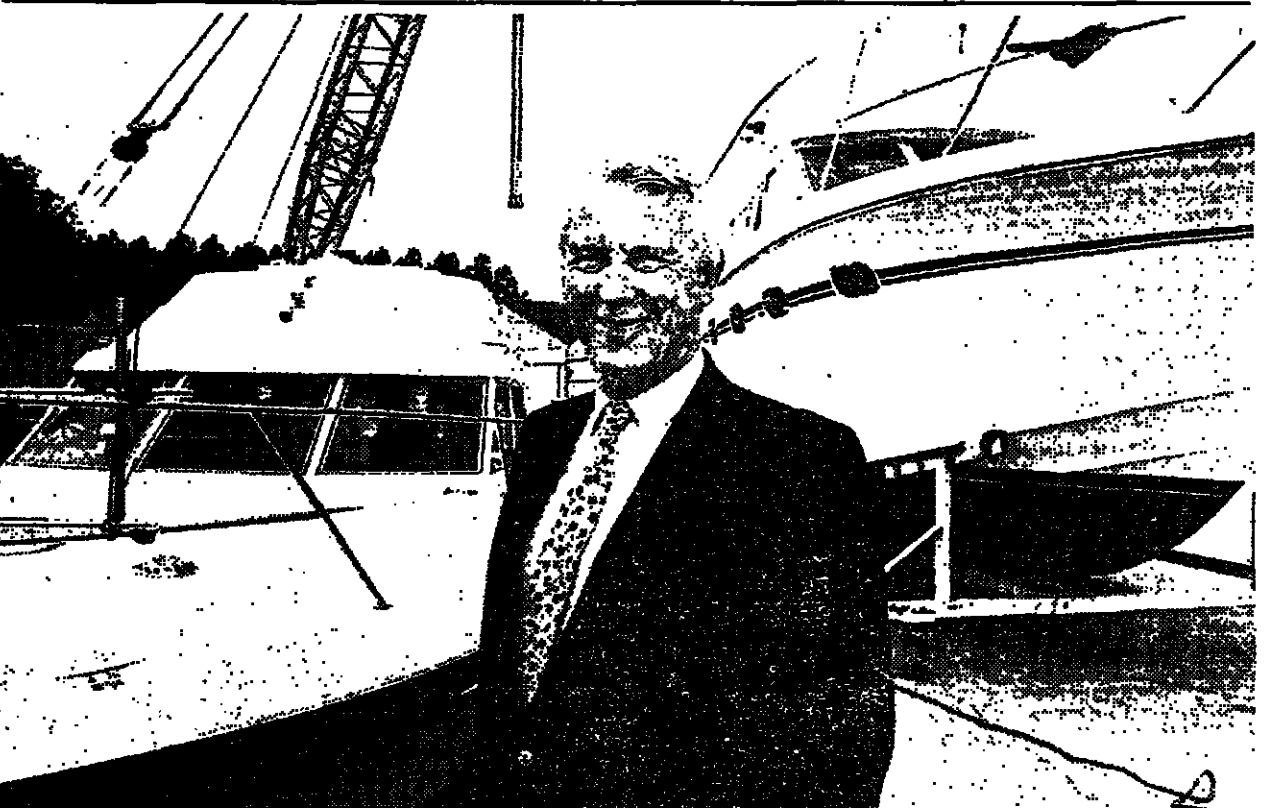
is growing at about 4% per cent, compared with the 6% per cent it estimated two months ago.

The slowdown is reflected in a continued cooling-off in productivity growth in manufacturing. Output per head in the three months to March was 5.5 per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year and 7.6 per cent in the third quarter.

Within manufacturing the pattern is mixed. There are increases in metals and food, but a slowdown in the important sectors of chemicals, motor vehicles and electrical engineering.

In the latest available month of March the index of output of the production industries rose 1.2 per cent, from an upward revised February figure to 114.0 (1980=100).

Fairline Boats powers ahead to £1.5m



On course: Sam Newington at his marina in Oundle, near Peterborough yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

By Martin Waller

Fairline Boats, the luxury launch builder, raised pretax profits by 51 per cent to £1.52 million in the six months to March 31, helped by investment in its factory in the Weldon enterprise zone, Northamptonshire.

Mr Sam Newington, the chairman, said sales were strong throughout its range of

boats, which cost between £20,000 and £200,000, despite the threat from imported American power launches, made more competitive by the weak dollar.

The company this year decided to go ahead with a third phase of development at its Weldon factory, at a cost of £1.5-£2 million, all of which is allowable against tax.

Once this and other capital

spending under the group is complete, Fairline will be able to produce more than £40 million worth of boats a year.

For the half year, sales rose from £7.94 million to £11.98 million. The half-way dividend is raised by 1p to 4p.

Mr Newington said that although there would be further new product development costs later this year,

which were expected to run at a similar rate to last time, there should be no further significant reorganization costs.

Fairline introduced two new boats, the Fairline 21 Sprint and the Fairline 43, at the London Boat Show in January, and both had been very well received, both in the British and European markets, the chairman added.

US markets still living on their nerves

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US financial markets remained extremely nervous yesterday in response to growing fears of inflation and high interest rates. Markets in New York opened sharply lower as Mr Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, told Congress he could not rule out another market crash.

There was also strong concern over the precarious state of the savings and loan industry, which has seen record failures and large government bailouts in recent months. In separate testimony, Senator William Proxmire pledged full Congressional support, despite the recent, large failures and the findings of a government agency that federal insurance to back deposits was inadequate.

"There is absolutely no doubt that deposits in savings associations are safe up to \$100,000 (£54,000)," Mr Proxmire said during a Senate banking committee hearing on the industry's plight. Earlier, a top official of the General Accounting

Office gave warning that failure to act quickly on the insolvent savings banks would undermine "the stability of all financial institutions."

Mr Greenspan, who has sought to convince Congress that widespread reforms of Wall Street could be dangerous, said the possibility of another market crash was very small, even though "a replay" could occur.

He has joined high-level Treasury officials in attempting to convince Congress that the worst problems exposed by Black Monday have been corrected. They are urging Congress to drop proposed legislation for broad reforms that Mr Greenspan said would disrupt markets and drive business overseas.

Mr David Ruder, the chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission, dissented strongly from the findings of a presidential working group on which he and Mr Greenspan served.

Mr Ruder said the presidential group had failed to propose a mechanism to

resolve the problems associated with extreme volatility in markets. He indicated he would seek separate legislation to give his agency new emergency powers and broader authority over financial markets. He also supported strongly higher margin requirements for stock index futures. Margins for non-floor traders should be increased from 15 per cent to a range of 20 to 25 per cent, Mr Ruder said.

This would increase investor confidence, decrease speculation in futures and reduce the illusion that futures markets provide enough liquidity to allow rapid selling of large portfolios, according to Mr Ruder.

The General Accounting Office said the cost of bailing out insolvent savings banks would be closer to \$20 billion this year than the \$5.3 billion estimated earlier by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, the government agency that guarantees deposits. Over the next two years, the cost could be as high as \$60 billion.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Blacks in distribution deal with US firm

Blacks Leisure Group, the camping and leisurewear company, has set up a distributorship in Great Britain to handle footwear and sportswear made by the Los Angeles company LA Gear California.

The All American Footwear Corporation will import the LA Gear range, which Mr Bernard Garbacz, Blacks' chairman, says is second only in sales and quality to the Reebok luxury training shoes operation. Blacks will take half the profits from the venture, with the balance going to the manufacturer. LA Gear has sales of about \$200 million (£107 million) in the United States and has budgeted for spending on advertising in the current year of \$7 million-\$8 million, \$500,000 of it targeted for Britain.

£500,000 buy for Willaire £5m Ratners acquisition

Willaire Systems, the fast-growing air conditioning and refrigeration equipment group quoted on the USM, has made a further acquisition on the eve of its move up to a full listing. It has bought the British Fan & Electrical Company, a High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, supplier of ducted fume extraction systems to laboratories, for £500,000 in cash.

Ratners Group, the jeweller, is buying a chain of shops in Jersey for £5.3 million cash in a move which will bring the number of outlets in the group to just under 1,000. It has agreed to buy Time (Jersey), which owns 16 jewellery and six accessory shops serving the luxury market. For the year to January 31, Time had pretax profits of £492,000 on sales of £4.25 million.

PAW sells to Bick

Blick, the radio-paging and time-recording equipment group, is buying PAW, a software company which specializes in time control and other computer products for local authorities. A complex consideration package will involve the payment of £3 million maximum or, if the amount is greater, £2 million and the cash equivalent of 500,000 of the company's shares. The acquisition still requires the blessing of Blick's shareholders.

The vendors, three founders of PAW, will receive £1.5 million in cash immediately, and another £500,000 next year, if profits before tax for the year to end-September 1988 are greater than £200,000. The rest of the payment involves the issue of non-interest-bearing loan notes.

Wyndham purchases

The Cardiff-based Wyndham Group has agreed to acquire one of that city's first urban redevelopment schemes, Jones Court in Womansly Street, for £1.15 million in cash. Wyndham has also agreed to buy Sheaf House in Sheffield for £1.14 million in cash. Sheaf House is a modern, 71,000 sq ft office development let to the British Railways Board for £12,000 a year.

Atlantic in Swedish talks

Atlantic Computers, the computer leasing company, is in takeover talks with a Stockholm company in a move which would give the British group the number one slot in the Scandinavian leasing market. ICS Stockholm employs about 200 people and has a turnover of about 1,000 million Swedish kronor (£90.6 million) a year. Atlantic already has an operation in Denmark.

Australian inquiry into Bell share sale

From Richard Battley Sydney

The National Companies and Securities Commission, Australia's corporate watchdog, is to hold an inquiry into the recent sale of Bell Group shares by Mr Robert Holmes & Court.

The announcement coincided yesterday with the exodus of senior staff from Bell Resources, Bell Group's cash-rich associate. It is not known whether the executives were dismissed or have resigned en masse.

The NCSC said that it had also informed Bell Group, the flagship of the Western Australian entrepreneur, that new directors should not be appointed to its board, nor to that of Bell Resources, pending the result of the inquiry.

This will prevent nominees from Bond Corporation Holdings and the State Government Insurance Commission from seeking seats.

Both organizations last month each bought a 19.9 per cent stake in Bell Group from Mr Holmes & Court for a total of Aus\$330 million (£123 million).

The hearing, in camera, will disappoint those investors who have complained that the market is not fully informed. These include Australia's biggest equity-market investor, the AMP Society.

Mr Charles Williams, the NCSC deputy chairman, said a private, rather than a public, hearing was more appropriate. "We've found private hearings are more effective."

The inquiry, which will start in Melbourne on Monday, will focus on what the NCSC has simply called "certain securities" in the Bell Group.

The key players in the recent transactions — Mr Holmes & Court, Mr Alan Bond, chairman of Bond Corp, and Mr Wyvern Rees, SGIC chairman, will be subpoenaed.

Stiff medicine for Underwoods

Large doses of nasty-tasting medicine are being administered at Underwoods, and not before time.

Signs that all was not well were evident to anyone who shopped at Underwoods and was left feeling utterly frustrated at trying to find an assistant to take their money.

Further evidence is provided by the figures for the year to January 31. Profits before tax declined from £3.1 million to £1.5 million.

Mr Alan Gaynor's diagnosis of what he found, when he arrived three months ago as managing director to take the ailing chemists chain in hand, makes horrific reading.

Straight financial analysis pins the blame for the slump in profits on unacceptably high levels of shrinkage (theft by customers and staff), a poor Christmas trading season, and the long lead time required for opening new stores.

Mr Gaynor's more candid evaluation reveals a total lack of central management direction and control.

Systems that worked well enough while the group had 20 outlets are woefully inadequate for the 54 stores it now has.

The merchandise had expanded into all sorts of unsuitable lines, ranging from television sets to year-round toys.

Inefficient distribution meant stores were running out of items that sold well, a key factor behind the poor Christmas performance.

Meanwhile, failure to clear out slow-moving lines meant there was no room for new stock.

Pay rates ceased to be competitive, and Underwoods was failing to attract the right calibre of staff.

Employees were disenchanted, and staff turnover

reached 100 per cent last year, a direct cause of poor service. Mr Gaynor's first medicine is the purge. Two head office blocks have been closed, and staff cut by 80 — the savings are being ploughed back into the branches.

Central control of stores is being tightened up, but local store management will now be made accountable for the performance of their shops.

All management and staff are now graded, trained and properly rewarded. All distribution now takes place at night.

The puzzle is why the share price is so high.

This year, pretax profits are unlikely to exceed £2.5 million, and nursing Underwoods back to full health will take at least until 1990.

Yet the prospective multiple is 20.7, twice the market average.

It is hard to see how a predator could justify paying such a price, and the shares are likely to fall further before they start to go up.

Prowling Holdings

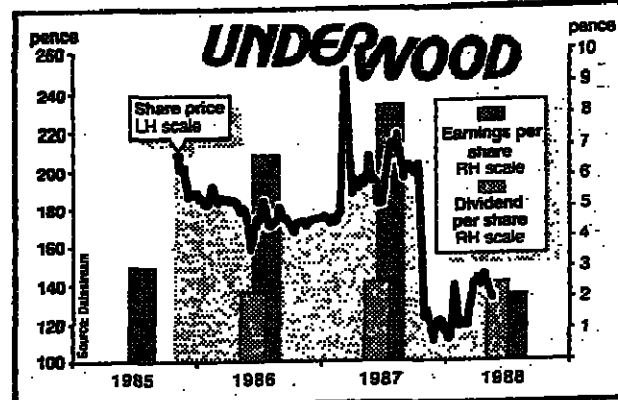
Some developers like a short land bank.

Others choose to build up a long land bank, often buying land without planning permission, hoping it will be awarded in due course.

Prowling, which is coming to market with an offer for sale, prefers the latter approach with a land bank extending to six years. In addition it has three years of land without planning permission.

The historic cost of its land with planning permission is

TEMPUS



£53.6 million, averaging £90,000 an acre. A conservative estimate would treble this value.

While the market remains buoyant, Prowling will concentrate on margins rather than volume. But its land bank has defensive qualities which would enable it to accelerate its 800 unit-a-year output if prices slacken.

A slowdown in prices might also lead to weakness in the cost of new land, enabling the company to replace land at reasonable prices.

The balance sheet will be cleared of debt after the offer for sale, leaving Prowling free to grow organically or by acquisition.

The former route could take volumes up to 1,200 a year in a few years' time, while acquisition of family firms with sound land banks may be sought, especially in East Anglia, where Prowling is barely represented.

The issue is attractively priced, with shares on 11.2 times pro-forma historic earnings, and 7.3 times current year forecasts of around £22 million.

Despite some uncertainty

about the sustainability of the present housing boom, Prowling's business has characteristics which make it a suitable long-term investment.

Gerrard & National

The discount market has never been a place for those with weak nerves. Sharp fluctuations in profit performance are a fact of life.

Witness Gerrard & National's experience last year. After an extraordinarily good year in 1986, when profits hit £11 million, the company slumped back to £7 million this time. The simple reason is that it read the market wrong on several crucial occasions.

Along with many other market players, it expected, for example, a flood of cash into the markets after the election. When this did not happen and gilts weakened, Gerrard lost out.

By October, it was expecting a base-rate rise and was caught out when equities crashed and gilts rose. This year it was concentrating on bearish factors in the economy and did not anticipate the enthusiasm

foreign investors would feel for Britain.

At the same time, Gerrard's purchase last year of a stock-broking firm looks less than brilliant with the downturn in market turnover since the crash.

The gilts losses, at least, do not mean that Gerrard has lost its touch. It simply means that any market-maker is prone to make mistakes in a difficult year. The reaction of the stock market to the results may seem, therefore, somewhat illogical.

At the half-time stage, the market marked Gerrard's shares down by a mere 2p on similarly disappointing figures. This time, its shares have dropped 17p to 315p. The reason is probably two-fold.

One is that a drop in profits of almost 50 per cent heavily underlines the impossibility of sensibly valuing the shares of a discount house which also acts as a primary gilts market-maker. Making predictions in this most volatile of sectors is simply a waste of time. Most analysts had been expecting a performance about equal to the previous year's.

The other may be the anticipation of more players joining the discount market by the end of the year.

There have been only three or four houses dividing the business between them for the last two years. The Bank of England, which still seems keen to maintain a discount market however anachronistic it may seem, is likely to admit several new players in the fairly near future.

If it decides to allow in too many players for the size of the market, as it did with the primary gilts market-makers, the discount houses face a period of fearsome competition.

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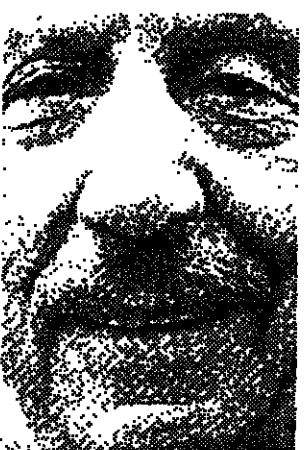
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London listing gained by Texas Instruments

By Colin Campbell

Texas Instruments, the American electronics group which operates in 17 countries and employs 75,000 people, yesterday secured a London Stock Exchange listing.

A listing of its shares on three Swiss stock exchanges follows next week.

Mr Jerry Junkins, the chairman, said in London yesterday that the foreign listings would raise the profile of the group, especially in London, and make it easier for international investors to hold Texas shares.

The shares have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1953, and are held by an estimated 32,000 investors. The group had a market capitalization of \$3.7 billion (£1.99 billion) at March 31.

The Dallas group, which is a leading high-technology company manufacturing defence electronics, computer and industrial controls systems, reported annual sales of \$5.6 billion in the year ended December, and a pretax profit of \$402 million.

Total assets of Texas Instruments at December 31



Higher profile: Jerry Junkins (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

stood at \$3.9 billion. The group's business is balanced between components — principally semiconductors — and electronic systems, including defence electronics, commercial data

systems and industrial electronics. It is one of the world's largest suppliers of integrated circuits.

The sponsoring merchant bank to the London introduction was Kleinwort Benson.

Anglesey valued at £14.2m

Anglesey Mining, which plans to reopen the North Wales Parys Mountain base metals mine, first discovered by the Romans, will have a market capitalization of £14.2 million, based on the placing price of the shares, when the company is listed on the Stock Exchange on June 6.

The issue will raise £5 million net, of which £4.3 million will be used for the first development phase of the zinc, lead, copper, silver and gold deposits.

Viking higher

Viking Packaging made pretax profits of £681,000 in the six months to the end of March against £567,000 in the previous first half. Turnover rose from £10.5 million to £12.6 million. The interim dividend was raised from 1.16p to 1.3p.

Europe 'challenging Britain for international investors'

By Colin Narbrough

Britain — at the moment, the favoured European location for international investment — will face fierce competition from its partners in the European Economic Community in the run-up to 1992, Mr Robert Atkins, the Industry Minister said yesterday.

But he made clear that growing investment from mainland Europe could help offset a slowdown in direct investment by the United States and Japan, the leading sources at the moment.

Foreign-owned companies chose Britain as the site for 303 direct investment projects last year. This had meant 37,000 jobs were created or safeguarded, an increase of 42 per cent over 1986, despite a slight decline in the number of projects.

Speaking at the launch of

Granyte up 16% to £1.65m

Granyte Surface Coatings, the USM-quoted maker of wood finish coatings, raised pretax profits by 16 per cent to £1.65 million, on sales up 10 per cent to £13.8 million, in the year to February 28. Granyte's new flame-retardant paint will be launched next month under the name Flamebloc.

Meanwhile, its technical services division was conducting trials on products for the European market following the acquisition late last year of the Belgian company Wyns-Bristol. A final dividend of 2p raises the total by 0.5p to 3p.

RTZ expands

Pneumatic Components of Sheffield, a subsidiary of RTZ Plaster, has agreed to buy Autogun Lavaggi (UK) for an undisclosed price.

Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 18th May 1988, its Base Rate was decreased from 8% to 7½% p.a.



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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Optimistic OECD fails to bridge gap on farm policy

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Ministers of the industrialized countries, meeting in Paris, agreed to press on with the reduction of wasteful agricultural subsidies.

But the agreement, in a communiqué issued last night, on a "framework approach" to reducing farm subsidies, failed to paper over the serious differences on this issue between the US and the European Economic Community.

The two-day Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development meeting ended with an upbeat assessment of world economic prospects, tempered by concern about high levels of unemployment in many of the 24 member countries, remaining trade imbalances and inflation.

The communiqué, to the

considerable satisfaction of British officials, laid particular stress on structural, or supply-side reforms in the industrial economies.

But on the latter, Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, rejected Wednesday's warning by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, that domestic demand in the US was growing too fast and that there was a danger of a resurgence in inflation.

Officials involved in the talks said some of the smaller members of the OECD, notably the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Spain and Portugal, had cautioned against what they saw as excessive optimism on the world economy from the leading countries — the US, Britain, West Germany, Japan and France.

Differences on agriculture may emerge afresh at next month's world economic summit in Toronto, and could jeopardize the present round of trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr Richard Lyng, the US Agriculture Secretary, who warned the EEC countries of retaliatory action if sufficient progress is not made on cutting subsidies, wanted the communiqué to include the US commitment to removing all agricultural subsidies that affect international trade within 10 years.

The US team, led by Mr Baker, was unhappy with the EEC farm deal concluded in February, which they regarded as a retrograde step.

The US's general call for action on farm subsidies was backed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Lawson, during their interventions in the OECD meeting. But both warned the US not to underestimate the significance of the EEC's February deal.

The final wording of the OECD communiqué, agreed after several hours of wrangling among officials, revolved around the word "framework". EEC officials said they did not believe it was the task of an OECD meeting to commit the Community to specific action on reducing farm subsidies, estimated by the OECD to account for nearly half of farmers' incomes in the industrialized countries.

Report criticizes Lloyd's agency

By Alison Eadie

RHM Outhwaite (Underwriting Agencies), a managing agency at Lloyd's insurance market, has been criticized in a report by Freshfields, the solicitor, for not investigating more thoroughly the nature of the asbestos problem and its potential magnitude before writing a number of policies covering risks including asbestosis.

The report also concluded that the agency was not in breach of its duty to names. Freshfields said a substantial case against Outhwaite based on breach of duty could be made out in relation to the writing of the policies, but added that any court action or arbitration based on such a cause of action would be unlikely to succeed.

Mr Richard Outhwaite, a leading Lloyd's underwriter, wrote 32 policies in 1982 reinsuring other Lloyd's syndicates against losses arising from American liability business like asbestosis and toxic waste. Losses on the policies, which will be borne by 1,614 names, have risen to £262 million.

Freshfields was appointed by a committee of members' agents, who placed names on the Outhwaite syndicates, to investigate whether Outhwaite was in breach of its duty to names by writing so much American liability business. The members' agents steering committee has decided there was nothing in the report that would justify non-payment of the £20 million cash call due by the end of July.

Mr Maurice Hussey, chairman of the Outhwaite agency, said: "The report is extremely thorough and displays an informed understanding of the circumstances that prevailed in the Lloyd's market during the period of the 1982 year of account. I believe it will repay careful study and be of great assistance to names in assessing their position."

A report from Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, also commissioned by the members' agents, is due this month. The members' agents are also exploring the possibility of appointing an independent individual to give names an assessment of their position.

Freshfields criticized Mr Outhwaite for failing to identify sufficiently precisely the basis of the figures presented to him at the time of placing the policies. It also expressed concern that the amount of business written into non-marine syndicate 661 exceeded the 20 per cent Mr Outhwaite had agreed with names.

Time to clear the air on Harris Queensway

COMMENT David Brewerton

No news is usually good news. Harris Queensway shareholders must be hoping so fervently. But their share price is telling them otherwise. Not a peep has been heard on the subject of the unsolicited approach disclosed by Sir Philip Harris two weeks ago. To say that it distracted the market from a disastrous set of profit figures would be a masterly understatement. Despite the horrors within the accounts, the share price zoomed 51p to 171p on the day.

Since then Harris Queensway shareholders have been growing increasingly uneasy, wondering if they are missing a splendid selling opportunity as the price trends steadily lower. Last night it closed at 147p. Under the special circumstances, an interim progress report on the state of play between Harris Queensway and its possible bidder would appear in order for the following reasons.

Outside a charmed circle of those directly involved, it is not generally known that several store groups, including it is understood Woolworth and Ward White, were sounded out before the announcement of those disastrous figures by Harris Queensway's advisers, County Natwest. None appears to have been especially enthused with the idea of bidding after a brief period of deliberation.

These approaches followed inquiries made initially to GUS, holder of 23 per cent of Harris Queensway equity. The inquiries are thought to be the source of the unsolicited approach mentioned on the day of the profits announcement.

Retail industry sources believe firstly that the approach which came via GUS is a long way from anything like completion. Secondly, they say that the other companies which looked were unable to justify a bid at close to the current share price. This suggests a lengthy period of limbo may befall Harris Queensway shares, and that if terms do emerge, they may not look over-generous.

The Takeover Panel has rightly encouraged early warnings of possible bid developments. But it is also true that false markets may develop after an announcement as well as before it.

Come on Sir Philip, let us all in on the secret.

Bad news, good news

It would be an enormous help to Nigel Lawson if the foreign exchange markets lost faith in him. Yesterday's evidence of booming credit and booming employment had the predictable effect of pushing sterling back up a bit more against the mark and the dollar. The dealers base their actions on confidence that the British Government will do whatever is necessary to fight inflationary pressures. Hence booming credit offers the prospect of long-term interest rate protection for the pound.

Until less than two years ago, the Chancellor repeatedly tried to cut inter-

est rates, for domestic reasons, and faithless foreign exchange dealers forced him to reimpose high rates. If this lack of confidence returned, he would be able to curb domestic credit without doing any further damage to the trade balance — as the Bank of England likes to dream.

As it is, the best the authorities can hope for is bad news about British economic growth. A downturn in industrial production in the first quarter is one straw in the wind. But it has to be contrasted with rising capital investment and the greatest ever monthly increase in bank lending to manufacturing industry — both pointers to continuing economic success.

A more hopeful sign, in this perverse perspective, was slacker retail sales growth in April. It was accompanied by a spring slowdown in stocking by retailers, suggesting that shopkeepers expect this to continue for some months at least.

But if the foreign exchange dealers do not care, perhaps the rest of us should not worry. At least Mr Lawson is still avoiding the catastrophic effects on American trade and competitiveness of glorying in the macho dollar of yesterday.

Credit where it is due

The absurdity of the dispute between Access and Barclaycard over who has what and where reflects the increasingly desperate battle between the card groups for a share in the bank credit card market which is coming close to saturation. Both card groups will, therefore, not be pleased by this week's launch of Chase Manhattan's new card charging interest nearly 7 percentage points below theirs.

Marketing by Access and Barclaycard has focused more and more on offering extra extras such as travel discounts and special prizes. But to the chagrin of consumers, they have consistently shied away from competing on interest rates, which remain extremely high.

The Office of Fair Trading last year became so concerned at the big profits made by the card companies that it referred them for a Monopolies Commission investigation. This may eventually recommend a cap to be put on credit card charges.

Or it may be forestalled by the Chase card. If they were logical, every credit card holder in Britain would now switch over to the new card which is offering credit at even cheaper rates than ordinary bank personal loans — and without the hassle of talking to a bank manager. It will also pay a reasonable rate of interest on credit balances. Chase is even encouraging people to pay off their existing credit card debts with the new card when they switch over.

Now that is marketing. It is hard to see how Access and Barclaycard can avoid this challenge.

IN BRIEF

Morland soars at half time

The mild winter and early Easter helped Morland, the Thames Valley brewer, to more than double pretax profits from £1.46 million to £3.08 million in the six months to end-March.

Earnings rocketed from 12.5p to 30.5p and the interim dividend rises from 2.5p to 2.8p. Whitbread holds 43.2 per cent of the shares.

Spear payout

Shareholders of JW Spear & Sons, the toy firm which makes Scrabble, have approved payment of a 6p dividend for the year ending December 31 in a poll forced by Allied Entertainment Financial Services, the largest shareholder, which opposed the payment after Spear's pretax profits for the year fell.

Sweets deal

Grand Central Investment Holdings, the food manufacturing, distribution and plantations group, is paying £600,000 for Central Wholesalers, a chocolate and confectionery business in Canberra, Australia.

Guinness buys

Guinness has bought another 900,000 of its own shares, paying 312.4p each. This brings the total purchased under its repurchase programme to 14.9 million shares.

£1bn record

A record sum of more than £1 billion was invested by venture capital institutions in 1987, according to figures from the British Venture Capital Association.

Bond sale

Bond Corporation Holdings has sold the food operations of G Heileman Brewing, its US subsidiary, for \$191.6 million (£103 million).

Tunnel denial

Enrotunnel has denied a newspaper report that the Stock Exchange is investigating various claims relating to its prospectus published last year.

A quiet annual meeting at Claridge's

Announcing the Next jewel in Davies's crown

By Joe Joseph

Shareholders in Next, the fashion retailer, treat their chairman George Davies with the glassy-eyed reverence of ten leopards on American television evangelists. They blush neither at the boom in his salary from £283,128 to £561,152 nor at his recent purchase from the company of a house in Chelsea for just £360,000.

A nearby Chelsea estate agent reckons that houses in the same street could comfortably change hands for £200,000 more than that; indeed, one went last year for £685,000.

At Next's tame but slightly stylish annual meeting at London's Claridge's hotel yesterday, amid a clutch of congratulations about the board's successful management of the company and the neatly designed annual report and Mrs Davies's imminent delivery of Davies Junior, one cheeky shareholder stammered something about the keen price of the new Davies residence. The stammered answer has been used hitherto by the company as a backdrop for photographs for its home furnishings division.

The 300 shareholders started shifting uncomfortably in their seats, like directors trying to avoid telling their host that they have found a hair in their soup.

It was explained that the house — in Oakley Street, which runs from the King's Road to the River Thames — had been independently valued by John D Wood, an estate agent.

Everyone at Claridge's breathed a sigh of relief and returned to sipping up each other's lapels and wondering how soon it will be before Next products glare out of every shop window in Britain's high streets.

When another anxious shareholder asked why even Storehouse's shares were performing relatively better than his own, Davies explained that "the market doesn't seem to be taking too much notice of where we're going".

Where Next was going yesterday was into banquets. It opened its latest line, Next



Riding high with an eye for Europe 1992: George Davies

Jewellery, in Chelsea, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Nottingham and Altrincham. There will be another 75 branches opened before the end of the year.

"I was at the King's Road shop this morning at 8," Davies said after the brief meeting had adjourned. People were queuing outside the store even though it only opened at 12 o'clock.

Davies is not the sort of man to let a week pass without thinking up a fresh project for his design team.

"We'll be introducing a new directory in August. We're going into outdoor clothing. We're going into horse riding. We've got a new section for 12- to 14-year-old boys. It will also be 50 pages bigger than last time — 450 pages in all."

Anything else on the boil? "I think we've got enough areas within the business for organic growth. The directory is going to give us a tremendous opportunity in Europe as we head for 1992. The directory offers us a marvellous opportunity without opening any new shops. Home shopping is very big in Germany and France."

Despite Davies's promises that the empire is big enough for the time being, few believe him. Very soon we will have Next the chemist, Next dry cleaners, Next pizza parlours, Next banks and even, once the power industry is fully privatized, Next electricity.

company all sprang to his rescue last, once again, the Japanese were first off the mark, with Toyota GB agreeing to loan him an £18,000, four-wheel-drive Toyota Landcruiser. His wife Jonica, who wrote off his car at the weekend, thus jeopardizing his training schedule, said: "I'm delighted, and very relieved."

Also on the jaunt is Ted Lansdowne, managing director of Payless, the rival DIY group and a part of Ward White, which is making a £100 million hostile bid for Stanley. Asked by Lansdowne whether or not it would be too frivolous to make such a trip in the middle of the bid, Ward White chairman Phil Birch apparently replied: "You go and enjoy yourself — you'll be busy running Stanley when you get back."

Brothers grin
Is it a record? Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, claimed it was yesterday when it unveiled its fifth new issue in three weeks. The first four — Victrola, Serco, Sotheby's and Reckem — were all placings. But the last, Prowling, is an offer for sale. And this lucky run is not yet over — Lazard is launching Parker Pen through an offer for sale early in June, and has another placing up its sleeve for next month. At least somebody's busy in the Square Mile.

Carol Leonard

Winning man of letters

Most unsolicited forms and questionnaires go straight into the rubbish bin. And the Client Agreement Letters which have just been mailed to all stockbrokers — under the requirements of the Financial Services Act — stand a good chance of following the same route. With 20 pages, 32 clauses and five appendices, the 6,000 letters sent out so far by Capel-Cure Myers are longer than most and thus even more vulnerable. Aware of this delicate problem, the firm's most colourful director, Fred Carr, deputy head of its international asset management division, has come up with a novel idea. Those clients who complete the forms and accompanying questionnaire — about their age, salary and lifestyle — before June 20 (10 days before the official deadline) will be entered into a draw. The first prize is a £1,000 holiday, with £500 and £250 in travel vouchers for the second and third prizewinners respectively. "We want to give them time to read it all properly," Carr says, "but we must have the forms back before the end of next month. If we don't, not only will we not be allowed to look after their portfolios, but we won't even be able to give them any advice." Discretionary clients are not being shown preferential treatment, however. Advisory and dealing clients will be criticised with an identical competition — but their forms do not have to be returned until October 1.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Over troubled water

Such is the pulling power of *The Times City Diary* that former stockbroker and aspiring Olympic yachtsman Roddy Bridge received no fewer than four offers of help following his plea, in yesterday's column, for the temporary loan of a car. The RAC, a couple of property developers and a fleet leasing

Flawed Capri

The three directors of do-it-yourself group AG Stanley — chairman Malcolm Stanley, managing director Roger Regan and finance director Peter Woods — who are currently enjoying a two-day ICI Paints conference in Capri, should not be sleeping too easily in



"We have rather gone off the Swiss lately"

Room at the top

The Bank of England has, I hear, been in the expensive business of "letting people go", just as much as the institutions it supervises. A massive restructuring last year resulted in some 300 redundancies costing, according to the Bank's just-published annual report and accounts, £10.6 million. That makes it the largest involuntary exodus from the Bank since the huge Exchange Control division was closed down eight years ago. Most of the redundancies have been in clerical jobs, where the encroachment of computers has transformed much of the Bank's back-office operations. And the abolition of the £1 note and its replacement with the little yellow coin is being blamed for redundancies in the printing department. But the Bank stresses that it is recruiting "hand over fist" in the higher-grade areas — such as banking supervision — leaving its overall staffing level, slightly higher, at 5,370, than a year ago. The new recruits, mostly graduates, tend to be more expensive than the people who have been "let go", so the Bank's overall salary bill has increased. Such is the nature of economy.

● Horse suggestions for the Hoorays race evening on Derby Day: at one such event a few months ago, Michael Bowring of the Lloyd's insurance broker Bowings Insurance, christened one horse Dusty Carpet ("it takes a lot of beating"), and another Hoof Heated.

Gerrard & National HOLDINGS PLC

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 1988

	1988	1987
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	£7,008m	£11,219m
TOTAL COST OF DIVIDENDS	£6.861m	£6.479m
DISCLOSED SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	£92.414m	£92.267m
TOTAL ASSETS	£4,667.639m	£4,865.310m

GROUP PROFIT FOR THE YEAR

Group profit for the year ended 5th April, 1988 amounted to £7,008,000 compared with £11,219,000 last year. The Profit figure has been struck after providing for taxation, minority interests and a transfer to inner reserves.

DIVIDEND

A final dividend of 15 pence (1987 14 pence) is proposed. This, together with the interim dividend of 3 pence (1987 3 pence), will make a total distribution for the year of 18 pence — an increase of 5.9 per cent. The proposed dividend on the ordinary 25p shares will be payable to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 3rd June 1988.

DISCLOSED SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The Group's disclosed shareholders' funds at 5th April, 1988 amounted to £92.414 million compared with £92.267 million in 1987.

TOTAL ASSETS

Total assets stand at £4,668 million compared with £4,865 million in 1987.

Gerrard & National HOLDINGS PLC

32 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BE. Tel: 01-623 9981

STOCK MARKET

US bid hopes boost Lasmio

The oil sector was caught in the grip of another wave of bid speculation yesterday as a party of top US oil men arrived in London.

London & Scottish Marine Oil led the way higher with a rise of 14p to 405p as more than 3 million shares changed hands. This latest flurry of activity was started by confirmation that representatives of Atlantic Richfield, the US oil group, had flown into London to talk with financial advisers in the City. It is thought they may be lining up another big bid.

Lasmio, which has often been tipped as a takeover target, is thought to be the most likely candidate. There have been signs that Arco has already built up a small stake in the shares.

Arco has already made a lot of money from investing in British oil companies. This year it bought a near 30 per cent stake in Britoil before launching a full offer. It was eventually pipped at the post by BP. But the £134 million profit it made on the deal was used to help finance the £170 million acquisition of Triton.

Arco has made no secret of the fact that it is on the lookout for other acquisitions. Lasmio would certainly fit the bill.

There has been talk that it has approached RTZ, the mining finance house, with a view to acquiring its 29.9 per cent holding. RTZ recently took the decision to pull out of the oil market by selling the bulk of its interests to Elf Aquitaine for £308 million.

All it is left with now is its stake in Lasmio. But RTZ is allowed to sell its Lasmio stake by only 5 per cent at a time - unless a full bid materialises.

Enterprise Oil, in which Lasmio holds a 25 per cent stake, advanced by 1p to 386p in sympathy.

Carless Capel & Leonard, Britain's oldest oil company, jumped by 14.5p to 130p on talk that Lord Rayne's London Merchant Securities, the

property and energy group, had sold its 27.4 per cent stake in the company to Elf Aquitaine. Dealers are hoping that a full bid will follow.

Ultramar closed 1p cheaper at 279p. Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, is said to have lined up a buyer for his 13 per cent stake in the group at about the 400p level.

The rest of the equity market remained in the doldrums. Wall Street's overnight fall of 35 points and Tokyo's biggest one-day setback so far this year had market-makers on the defensive at the outset with double-figure losses littering their Seaq computer screens.

News of another sharp increase in bank lending last month aggravated the situation and increased dealers' worries about inflation. But selling remained light as buyers remained on the sidelines.

The FT-SE 100 share index recovered from its low point of 1,753.3 with the help of bear closing as the account started to draw to a close. It

It looks as though a bid may be on the way for Rex Williams, the USM-

quoted leisure group, now headed by Mr Frank Warren, the boxing promoter. The shares advanced

another 6p to a new peak of 79p yesterday and have now risen by 25p in the past week alone.

finished 17 points lower at 1,760.6. The narrower FT 30 share index also ended 17.3 points down at 1,408.1.

Gilt-edged stocks gave ground on inflation fears, but losses were confined to 1/2p at the longer end.

Guinness ended the day 1p cheaper at 313p after resuming its buy-back operation in which its brokers picked up another 900,000 shares at just above 312p. Dealers pointed out that it was the first time the group had paid more than 300p for its own shares and claimed that this had estab-

lished a new support level for the price.

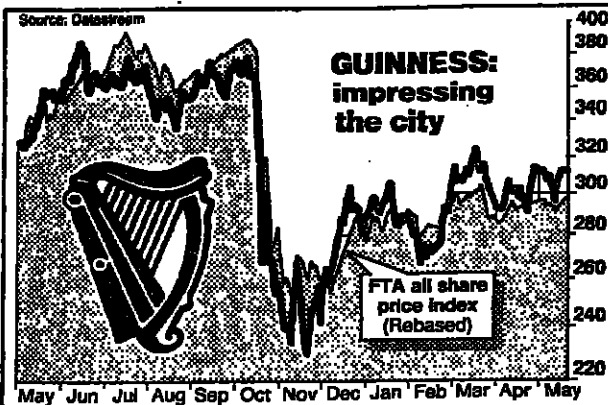
Meanwhile, the Guinness directors were holding a presentation for almost 100 fund managers at the Fenchurch Street offices of Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker and appear to have made a favourable impression. The group outlined the planned changes in its distribution system, Guinness now controls 75 per cent of its own distribution and marketing of its various brands and intends to expand on that figure.

Mr John Spicer, an analyst at Kleinwort, said: "The bulk of shareholders would have been impressed with what was said." He said that the group put its case confidently.

The prospect of having to pay former Distillers' shareholders more for their shares at some stage was not regarded as "a material item". Mr Spicer added: "The threat of legal action from Argyll has not been included in the accounts. Guinness's lawyers say there is not a case to answer."

Today Guinness will be meeting a number of fund managers at a seminar in Scotland, this time arranged by County NatWest Woodmac, the securities house.

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Hopes are high that a full bid will follow. Ruberoid has said that any corporate move by Mr Rudd would be unwelcome.

Ward White, the Payless do-it-yourself and Halfords group, currently fighting for control of AG Stanley, the FADS and Decor 8 chain, closed 6p lower at 295p.

The weakness reflects worries that Mr Philip Birch, the chairman, will increase his offer for Stanley. He secured less than 2 per cent of Stanley's shares by the first closing date of the £100 million-plus offer last week.

Mr Rowan Morgan, an analyst at Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore, the broker, is a fan of Ward White and thinks that the shares should have been bought on the bid.

He says that the current boom of depression in Ward White's shares has followed the move for Stanley is not surprising and will be followed by a period of outperformance of the market.

AG Stanley closed 5p easier at 273p.

Shares of British Aerospace dropped by 14p to 387p on nervous selling after reports that the group is attempting to seek extra financial assistance from the Government for the development of the European Airbus.

More than 1 million shares in Metal Box, the paper and packaging group, changed hands as they closed 1p dearer against the trend at 204p.

Whispers in the market continue to suggest that BTR is about to launch a bid.

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TOKYO

Index loses 394 points in biggest fall of year

(Reuters) - Share prices closed sharply lower yesterday, as continued concern over Wall Street's decline on fears of interest rate rises caused Tokyo's biggest tumble of the year.

"People are looking at what is going on in New York," said Mr Toranobu Sugai, vice-president of the equities department at Shearson Lehman Bros Asia. "As far as fundamentals are concerned, people have confidence in the Tokyo stock market, but right now, they aren't buying."

The Nikkei average fell 394.34 points, or 1.42 per cent, to close at 27,373.24. It lost 52.40 points on Wednesday. Yesterday's decline was the biggest since a 587.50-point plunge on December 26.

Falling shares led rising issues by 37 to 10 on volume of 1 billion shares.

Securities house, communications, bank, electrical, railway and bus, pharmaceutical, rubber, property, cars and manufacturing issues led the decline.

Only rolling stock and shipping shares advanced.

HK decline

Hong Kong - Shares weakened over a wide front in what traders termed uncertain and confused selling yesterday. The Hang Seng index finished 26.5 points down at 2,506.76, a fall of more than 1 per cent.

The 100-share-based Hong Kong index closed at 1,655.54, down 17.99.

Shares drift

Singapore - Share prices drifted further in the afternoon to close moderately lower across the board yesterday on speculative selling and bouts of profit-taking following sharp falls in Tokyo and Wall Street, dealers said.

The Straits Times industrial index fell 10.70 points to close at 964.31 on Wednesday's close of 975.01.

Sydney weak

Sydney - The national share market closed weaker on selling pressure, mostly in the industrial sector, brokers said. The All-Ordinaries index fell 10.7 points to close at 1,442.6 and the All-Industrials index lost 27.8 to finish at 2,323.6.

Prices lower

Frankfurt - Share prices closed sharply lower in moderate trading yesterday, but picked up considerably from their weak opening. The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, fell 25 points. The Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index ended 2.5 points lower at 286.99 after Wednesday's 289.49.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

Call Put

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Call Put

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WALL STREET

Dow dips on fears over interest rates

New York (Reuters) - Shares remained broadly lower in early trading yesterday, although blue chips were above their opening levels. Brokers reported that shares fell because of concern about upward pressure on inflation and interest rates. Blue chips attracted some bargain buying.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 5.0 points lower at 1,946.09 after dipping to 1,942.

Declining issues outnumbered rising ones by two to one.

Mr Jack Baker, the chief of the block trading desk at

Shearson Lehman Hutton, said that the decline was an extension of the late loss on Wednesday. He added: "The institutions are not entering any bids. The market looks weak."

The Dow average fell by 35.32 to 1,931.09 on Wednesday.

● Miami - Knight-Ridder Inc reported that April newspaper advertising revenues rose by 2.2 per cent to \$123.7 million (£66.3 million).

Newspaper advertising revenues rose by 5.0 per cent to \$485.1 million for the year to date.

May 18 May 17 May 16 May 15 May 14 May 13 May 12 May 11 May 10 May 9 May 8 May 7 May 6 May 5 May 4 May 3 May 2 May 1

AMR 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

ASA 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

AT&T 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

Bell 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

Boeing 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

Chrysler 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

Coca-Cola 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

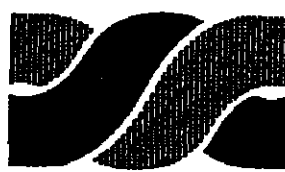
Eastman 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 73% 74% 75% 76% 77% 78% 79% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 85% 86% 87% 88% 89% 90% 91% 92% 93% 94% 95% 96% 97% 98% 99% 100%

Exxon 40% 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 46% 47% 48% 49% 50% 51% 52% 53% 54% 55% 56% 57% 58% 59% 60% 61% 62% 63% 64% 65% 66% 67% 68% 69% 70% 71% 72% 7

A copy of the document, which comprises listing particulars relating to ASW Holdings PLC in accordance with the listing rules made under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration in accordance with section 149 of that Act.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of ASW Holdings PLC, issued and to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the ordinary shares will commence on Thursday, 2nd June, 1988.

The Directors of ASW Holdings PLC accept responsibility for the information contained in this document. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors, who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to effect the import of such information.



ASW HOLDINGS PLC

Offer by
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
of 26,700,000 ordinary shares at 150p per share payable in full on application

Before completing and lodging this Application Form you are advised to read the offer document dated 17th May, 1988 (the "Offer Document"), which contains information relating to ASW Holdings PLC (the "Company") and full details of the Offer by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. to which this Application Form relates, and which comprises listing particulars relating to the Company in accordance with the listing rules made under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Applications will only be accepted on the terms and conditions attaching to this Application Form, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and solely on the basis of the information contained in the Offer Document. Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this Application Form.

Copies of the Offer Document, which has been published, may be obtained from the registered office of the Company ASW Holdings PLC, P.O. Box 83, Castle Works, Cardiff CF1 5XQ and from the addresses set out below. The application list for the ordinary shares now being offered will open at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 25th May, 1988 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The terms and conditions of, and the procedure for, application are set out herein.

Share capital

Set out below are details of the share capital of the Company as it will be immediately following admission of the ordinary shares, issued and to be issued, to listing:—

Ordinary shares of 25p each
BSC convertible preference shares of £1 each

Authorised	Issued and fully paid
£26,000,000	£16,270,000
£31,571,000	£31,571,000

The ordinary shares now being offered will rank in full for all dividends and other distributions hereafter declared, made or paid on the ordinary share capital of the Company.

Terms and conditions of application

1. The contract resulting from each acceptance of an application relating to the Offer will be conditional on the whole of the ordinary share capital of ASW Holdings PLC, issued and to be issued, being admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange not later than 9th June, 1988 and on the Offer Agreement becoming wholly unconditional and not being terminated in accordance with its terms. Monies collected in respect of applications will be returned through the post to the address of the first-named applicant at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto and without interest if these conditions are not satisfied. In the meantime such monies will be retained by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, in a separate account.

2. The right is reserved to present cheques and bankers' drafts for payment on receipt by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department and to retain Letters of Acceptance and surplus application monies pending clearance of all applicants' cheques and bankers' drafts. The right is reserved to reject any application in respect of which the applicant's cheque or bankers' draft has not been cleared by 1.00 p.m. on 31st May 1988.

3. Subject to the arrangements for employees described in "Arrangements for employees" below, the basis of allocation of applications will be determined by S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. in its absolute discretion after consultation with the Company. The contract resulting from each acceptance of an application shall constitute a separate contract for the subscription of the ordinary shares offered by the Company on the terms and conditions set out in the Offer Document and shall be construed accordingly. The right is reserved to reject in whole or in part or to scale down any application including, without limitation, multiple or suspected multiple applications. If any application is not accepted, or is accepted for fewer ordinary shares than the number applied for, the application monies or the balance thereof (as the case may be) will be returned (by returning the applicant's cheque or bankers' draft or by sending a crossed cheque in favour of the applicant) by post and at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto to the address of the first-named applicant without interest.

4. The Offer is being made by S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. as agent of the Company. By completing and delivering an Application Form, you (as the applicant(s))—
(a) offer to subscribe from the Company the number of ordinary shares specified in your Application Form (or such smaller number for which your application may be accepted) on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein, in "Procedure for application" and otherwise as set out in the Offer Document and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company;

(b) authorise the Company, National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department or S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. to send a Letter of Acceptance for the number of ordinary shares for which your application is accepted and/or a crossed cheque for any monies returnable by post, at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto, to your address (or that of the first-named applicant) as set out in your Application Form and to procure that your name (together with the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the Register of Members of the Company in respect of such ordinary shares the entitlement to which has not been duly renounced;

(c) agree that, in consideration of the Company agreeing that it will not, on or after 9th June, 1988, issue any of the ordinary shares which are the subject of the Offer to any person other than by means of the procedure referred to in this document, your application cannot be revoked until after 9th June, 1988 and that the paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between you and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Company which will become binding on receipt by post of your Application Form to, or in the case of applications delivered by hand upon receipt of your Application Form by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department;

(d) warrant that your cheque or bankers' draft will be honoured on first presentation;

(e) agree that any Letter of Acceptance and any monies returnable may be retained by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department pending clearance of your cheque or bankers' draft;

(f) agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the Offer shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law;

(g) warrant that if you sign an Application Form on behalf of somebody else or a corporation you have due authority to do so;

(h) confirm that in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to the Company or its subsidiaries other than such as may be contained in the Offer Document and you accordingly agree that neither S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. nor the Company nor any person responsible solely or jointly for this document or any part thereof shall have any liability for any such other information or representation;

(i) warrant that no other application (not being an application under the terms of the Matching Offer referred to in "Arrangements for employees" below) is being made by you for your own account or by another on your behalf and with your knowledge for such purpose as if you are applying as agent or nominee of another person or persons as aforesaid;

(j) authorise National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department or S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. as your agent to do all things necessary to effect registration of any ordinary shares subscribed by you into your name(s) or into the name(s) of any person(s) in whose favour the entitlement to any such shares shall have been renounced and authorise any representative of National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department or S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. to execute and/or complete any renounceable or other document of title referred to;

(k) warrant that you are not a US person (which expression shall mean any person who is a national, citizen or resident of the United States of America, its possessions and territories and all areas subject to its jurisdiction, or any political subdivision thereof, including corporations, partnerships or other entities created or organised therein or any estate or trust that is subject to United States federal income taxation) and are not applying on behalf of, or with a view to the re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer to, or for the benefit of, any such person; and
(l) warrant that you are not an undertaking within the meaning of Article 80 of the Treaty of Rome (which Article broadly applies to any undertaking engaged in the production or distribution of coal or steel for sale within the EEC other than involving sale to domestic consumers or small craft industries) or a holding company of such undertaking or a subsidiary of such undertaking or holding company and are not applying on behalf of, or with a view to the re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer to, or for the benefit of, any such person.

5. Acceptance of an application, subject to paragraph 3 above, will be effected at the election of S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. (on behalf of the Company) either by notification to The Stock Exchange of the bank of allocation or by notification of such acceptance to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department.

6. In accordance with the arrangements described under "Arrangements for employees" below, certain of the ordinary shares being offered are being reserved to meet applications by or for the benefit of employees of the Group under the Matching Offer. Such applications must be made on the special application form which has been made available to such persons.

7. No person receiving a copy of this document in any territory other than the UK may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such an Application Form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation and offer could lawfully be made to him without compliance with any invitation and offer rules. It is the responsibility of any person registration outside the UK receiving a copy of this document wishing to make an application to satisfy himself as to the full observance of the laws of the relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of any governmental or other consents and compliance with other necessary formalities, and to pay any transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory in respect of any shares acquired under the Offer.

8. The ordinary shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Accordingly, the ordinary shares may not be offered, sold, renounced or transferred, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to, or for the benefit of, any US person or to any person purchasing such shares for re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer in the United States or to, or for the benefit of, any US person as part of the distribution of such shares. These terms and conditions of application incorporate a warranty that the applicant is not a US person and is not applying on behalf of, or with a view to the re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer to, or for the benefit of, any US person.

Procedure for application

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the Application Form.

- Insert in Box 1 (in figures) the number of ordinary shares for which you are applying.
Applications must be for a minimum of 200 ordinary shares or in one of the following multiples:—
• for more than 200 ordinary shares, but not more than 1,000 ordinary shares, in a multiple of 200 ordinary shares;
• for more than 1,000 ordinary shares, but not more than 5,000 ordinary shares, in a multiple of 500 ordinary shares;
• for more than 5,000 ordinary shares, but not more than 10,000 ordinary shares, in a multiple of 1,000 ordinary shares;
• for more than 10,000 ordinary shares, but not more than 50,000 ordinary shares, in a multiple of 5,000 ordinary shares;
• for more than 50,000 ordinary shares, in a multiple of 10,000 ordinary shares.
An Application Form for any other number of ordinary shares may be rejected.

- Insert in Box 2 (in figures) the amount of your payment.

- Sign and date the Application Form in Box 3.
The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf (and/or on behalf of any joint applicant(s)) if duly authorised to do so but the original Power(s) of Attorney (or a notary certified copy thereof) must be enclosed for inspection. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised officer whose representative capacity must be stated.

- Insert your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4.

- You must pin to the completed Application Form a cheque or bankers' draft for the full amount payable. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC" for the amount payable on application and inserted in Box 2 and should be crossed "Not negotiable—ASW Holdings PLC".
No receipt will be issued for this payment which must be solely for this application.
Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques and bankers' drafts to be presented for payment through the clearing facilities provided for the members of those Clearing Houses (and must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner).
Applications may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s) but any monies to be returned will be sent by crossed cheque drawn in favour of the person named in Box 4.

- You may apply jointly with other persons.
If you do so you must then arrange for the Application Form to be completed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (up to a maximum of three persons, in the case of the first applicant). Their full names should be put in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 6.
7. Box 7 must be signed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (other than the first applicant who should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4).
Any person signing the Application Form under a Power of Attorney must endorse the original Power of Attorney (or a notary certified copy thereof) and must enclose it for inspection.
You must send the completed Application Form together with the cheque or bankers' draft by post, or deliver it by hand, to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 25th May, 1988.
If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two working days for delivery.
Photostat copies of Application Forms will not be accepted.
Multiple or suspected multiple applications may be rejected in their entirety.

Copies of the Offer Document, which has been published, may be obtained from:—
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.,
33 King William Street,
London EC4A 3AS
Lyndon,
110 Bute Street,
Cardiff CF1 1QS
and at the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC:—
London
New Issues Department,
P.O. Box 79,
2 Princes Street,
London EC2P 2BD
Cardiff
117 St Mary Street,
Cardiff CF1 1JG
Liverpool
22 Calkie Street,
Liverpool L69 3DE
Southampton
119 High Street,
Southampton
South Humberstone DN15 6JL
and in Belfast from:—
Ulster Bank Limited,
Investment Division,
88-90 High Street,
Belfast BT1 2BG

Edinburgh
80 George Street,
Edinburgh EH2 3JZ
Manchester
55 King Street,
Manchester M40 2DB
Sheffield
42 High Street,
Sheffield S1 1QG

Stratford
New Issues Centre,
100 Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 3NS
Glasgow
14 Blythswood Square,
Glasgow G2 4HQ
Newport
High Street,
Newport
Gwent NP23 4SE
Swansea
9 Bala Vue Way
Swansea SA1 2EX

Listing and dealing arrangements

Applications must be received by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 25th May, 1988. The basis on which applications have been accepted will be announced as soon as possible thereafter. It is expected that Letters of Acceptance will be posted to successful applicants on 1st June, 1988 and that dealings in the ordinary shares will commence on 2nd June, 1988. Dealing prior to receipt of Letters of Acceptance will be at the risk of the applicant(s). A person so dealing must recognise the risk that an application may not have been accepted to the extent anticipated or at all.
Letters of Acceptance will be renounceable until 3.00 p.m. on 8th July, 1988. In cases of renunciation, Letters of Acceptance (duly completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein) must be lodged with National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, by 3.00 p.m. on 8th July, 1988. After that time an instrument of transfer must be used. Share certificates are expected to be despatched on 10th August, 1988 by the Company's registrars.

Arrangements for employees

Up to 2,500,000 ordinary shares (representing 9.4 per cent. of the ordinary shares being offered) are being reserved to meet applications by or for the benefit of employees of the Group under the Matching Offer. Applications under the Matching Offer must be made on the special application form which has been made available to eligible persons.

Stamp Duty and Stamp Duty Reserve Tax

Agreements to renounce Letters of Acceptance will generally be liable to Stamp Duty Reserve Tax (SDRT) at the rate of 50p per £100 (or part thereof) of the actual consideration paid. The SDRT is the liability of the purchaser. Where the renunciation is effected through a member of The Stock Exchange and a qualified dealer that person will normally collect the SDRT, and will indicate that this has been done in the contract note issued to the purchaser. In other cases, the purchaser is liable to pay the SDRT and must account for it to the Inland Revenue.
Following the latest time for registration of renunciation of Letters of Acceptance, transfers of ordinary shares will normally be liable to Stamp Duty at the rate of 50p per £100 (or part thereof) of the actual consideration paid. An unconditional agreement to transfer such shares will normally be subject to SDRT at the same rate except to the extent that the agreement is completed within two months by a duly stamped transfer in favour of the purchaser under the agreement.
No Stamp Duty or SDRT is payable on the issue of Letters of Acceptance or on their registration.

Special rules apply to agreements made by market makers in the ordinary course of their business, broker-dealers and certain other persons. Agreements to renounce Letters of Acceptance in favour of, or transfer shares to, charities will not give rise to SDRT or Stamp Duty.
The above comments are intended as a general guide to the current position. Any person who is in any doubt as to his liability position is urged to consult his professional advisers.

Application Form

ASW HOLDINGS PLC

Please read "Procedure for application" before completing this Application Form. If you are in any doubt as to how to complete this Application Form you are recommended to seek your own personal financial advice from your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other professional adviser.

Offer by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. of 26,700,000 ordinary shares at 150p per share payable in full on application.

To: S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. (as agent for and on behalf of ASW)

- I/we offer to acquire ordinary shares
at the Offer price of 150p per ordinary share on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in "Terms and conditions of application" set out herein and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of ASW

- and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable, namely £
(150p multiplied by the number of ordinary shares inserted in Box 1)

- Dated 1988 Signature

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

- Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title Surname
Forename(s) (in full)
Address (in full)
Postcode

- ☐ Pin here your cheque or bankers' draft made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC" and crossed "Not negotiable—ASW Holdings PLC" for the amount in Box 2.

Fill in Boxes 6 and 7 only when there is more than one applicant. The first or sole applicant should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4. Insert in Box 6 only the names of the second and subsequent applicants, each of whose signature is required in Box 7.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

- Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title Surname
Forename(s) (in full)
Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title Surname
Forename(s) (in full)
Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title Surname
Forename(s) (in full)

- Signature Signature Signature

You must send this completed Application Form together with the cheque or bankers' draft by post, or deliver it by hand, to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 25th May, 1988. Any person signing this Application Form under a Power of Attorney must enclose the original Power of Attorney (or a notary certified copy thereof) for inspection.

If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two working days for delivery.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was up at 78.4 (day's range 78.3-78.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for May 19

Range	Close	3 month	6 month
New York	1.8845-1.8875	1.8890-1.8920	1.8930-1.8960
London	2.3190-2.3220	2.3240-2.3270	2.3300-2.3330
Amsterdam	3.475-3.485	3.490-3.500	3.510-3.520
Brussels	88.00-88.50	88.50-89.00	89.00-89.50
Frankfurt	12.100-12.150	12.150-12.200	12.200-12.250
Dublin	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Paris	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Madrid	205.0-210.0	205.0-210.0	205.0-210.0
Barcelona	205.0-210.0	205.0-210.0	205.0-210.0
Geneva	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Basel	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Zurich	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Stockholm	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Oslo	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Copenhagen	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Helsinki	1.120-1.130	1.130-1.140	1.140-1.150
Tokyo	232.0-233.0	232.0-233.0	232.0-233.0
Seoul	222.0-223.0	222.0-223.0	222.0-223.0
Manila	22.0-22.5	22.0-22.5	22.0-22.5
Calcutta	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Colombo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Singapore	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Bombay	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Rangoon	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yokohama	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Osaka	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Kobe	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Nagoya	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Kyoto	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Fukuoka	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Sapporo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Hiroshima	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Sendai	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Utsunomiya	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Maebashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokushima	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Matsuyama	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamaguchi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Shimonoseki	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamagata	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Iwate	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Miyagi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Aomori	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Ibaraki	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
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Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
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Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
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Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
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Yamanashi	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Chiba	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
Tokyo	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26	2.24-2.26
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هذه امة الاصل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Persistent selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 9. Dealings end today. Settlement day May 23. Settlement day May 31.
 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

Portfolio
 PLUS NEW
Accumulator
 From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stake. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Portfolio
 PLUS NEW
Accumulator
 Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
 Claims required for 30 points
ACCUMULATOR £30,000
 Claims better than 30 points
 Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	%	Vol
1	Lloyds (a)	Bank/Discount	110.00	0.00	0.0	100
2	Sainsbury	Drugs/Stores	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
3	Kyl (a) (a)	Bank/Discount	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
4	Tate	Industrial S-Z	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
5	Monro	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
6	Foster (John)	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
7	Leic. Winc. Co.	Drugs/Stores	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
8	Microgen	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
9	Young W.	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
10	Neill (J)	Industrial L-R	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
11	Volca	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
12	Nichols (JN) (Vint)	Food	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
13	Bristol	Newspapers/Pub	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
14	Woodside	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
15	Audio Fidelity	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
16	Lyles (S)	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
17	AGB Research	Industrial A-D	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
18	Ocean Transport	Shipping	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
19	Lamont	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
20	Castaway Ind.	Industrial A-D	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
21	Parke & A.	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
22	Goat Pet	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
23	Wholesale Fining	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
24	Irish Dist.	Breweries	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
25	Glen	Industrial E-K	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
26	Morgan Grenfell	Bank/Discount	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
27	Wilson Bowden	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
28	Donat	Industrial A-D	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
29	Bodycote	Industrial A-D	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
30	Jack (Wm)	Motor/Aircraft	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
31	Greene King	Breweries	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
32	Co-Moon	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
33	Accord	Newspapers/Pub	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
34	Midland (a)	Bank/Discount	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
35	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
36	BICC (a)	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
37	Scott Harbottle	Industrial S-Z	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
38	NAMW Comp	Electricals	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
39	Hunting Assoc	Industrial E-K	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
40	Steeley	Industrial E-K	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
41	Hewlett Pk	Industrial E-K	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
42	Lilly (BIC)	Building/Roads	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
43	Zetco Ltd	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.0	100
44	Oliver Paper	Print/Publish	100.00	0.00	0.0	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

UNDATED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

BREWERIES

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

CINEMAS, TV

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

FOODS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

L-R

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

S-Z

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

INSURANCE

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

LEISURE

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

MINING

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

PROPERTY

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHIPPING

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TEXTILES

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

PROPERTY

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHIPPING

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TEXTILES

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

PROPERTY

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHIPPING

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TEXTILES

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Vol

Drug trade mark rights irrelevant

Narrow concept of 'larger purpose'

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Services, Ex parte Wellcome Foundation Ltd
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman and Lord Ackner
[Speeches May 19]

When dealing with applications for product licences for parallel imports of medicines under the Medicines Act 1968 the licensing authority was not obliged to consider infringements of trade mark rights.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Wellcome Foundation Ltd from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Croom-Johnson) (1987) 1 W.L.R. 1166 who had allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State for Social Services from a decision of the Registrar of Trade Marks (1986) 1 W.L.R. 1166 granting Wellcome a declaration that trade mark infringements were a relevant matter for consideration on licence applications.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, Mr David Pannick and Mr Gerald Barling for Wellcome; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Nicholas Paines for the Secretary of State.

LORD ACKNER said that Wellcome was a major British-based pharmaceutical company which manufactured a large range of pharmaceutical products, including an anti-bacterial product sold in the United Kingdom under the trade marks "Septin" and "Septin Forte".

When Wellcome began investigating whether the trade mark Septin could be used in countries outside the UK it was discovered that the trade mark was confusingly similar to a number of registered marks existing at that time in other countries, particularly in some member states of the European Community.

It was decided that in those countries it should be sold under the trade mark "Eusaprim" and that trade mark was registered by Wellcome in West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Luxembourg. The trade mark Septin was registered in the Republic of Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

The product was manufactured by Wellcome and its subsidiary companies in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and the UK and was manufactured under licence in Greece. By the time the product was launched in Europe, it had already been extensively marketed in the UK under the trade name Septin and it was therefore not practical to change the product's name in the UK to Eusaprim.

Septin Forte was not registered as a trade mark until 1978. Although Septin and Eusaprim were the same product, the latter was marketed in some European Community countries at a considerably lower price because of deliberate action by governments of those countries to keep pharmaceutical prices artificially low.

It was unlawful under section 7(3) of the 1968 Act to import medicinal products into the UK except in accordance with an appropriate product licence issued by the Secretary of State under section 20(1) of the Act.

Where an importer wished to import from a member state of the European Community a medicinal product which corresponded to one for which a licence had already been granted in the UK, there was a modified form of application, hence the name "product licence" (para 10). Effectively, the product concerned had to be identical with or have no differences in therapeutic effect from the product covered by the UK licence.

Wellcome became aware that various importers were importing into the UK and marketing under the trade mark Septin, the product marketed in Belgium had already been granted in the UK, there was a modified form of application, hence the name "product licence" (para 10). Effectively, the product concerned had to be identical with or have no differences in therapeutic effect from the product covered by the UK licence.

Once that infringement was ascertained, Wellcome had no difficulty, by the issue of the appropriate proceedings, in compelling such importers to discontinue such activity.

Wellcome's problem was to identify those who were responsible for those infringements because, when the details of the product licences granted were published in the *London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazette*, although the name of the product in which the application for the licence was made and the name of the licence holder was always given, the country of origin was never stated and that was the

vital clue as to whether the product to be sold in the UK as Septin enjoyed only the trade mark of Eusaprim.

In order to emphasize that the grant of a licence in no way absolved the applicant from complying with third-party rights, the DHSS issued leaflets giving guidance on applications for PL(P)s which stated that the grant of any licence did not absolve the licensee from complying with any third-party rights.

In April 1986 following upon representations made by *inter alia* Wellcome, the DHSS sent a circular letter to all applicants for PL(P)s stating that, if licensing authority did not inquire into trade mark matters and that the grant of a licence did not resolve trade mark issues.

Wellcome were not satisfied that the issue of that letter cured the problem and on July 23, 1986 wrote to the DHSS asking that trade mark considerations be taken into account when dealing with applications for PL(P)s.

On September 16, 1986 the DHSS replied that it was doubtful whether the fact that a product licence ought to be in the name of Eusaprim rather than Septin was a ground for refusal of the licence and pointing out that "in general the licensing authority believe that any dispute as to infringements of trade mark is a matter between the applicant and the owner of the trade mark and trade mark issues are excluded from our assessment".

In support of his submission that potential infringement of trade marks were relevant considerations to which the Secretary of State was obliged to have regard in the exercise of his power to grant product licences, Mr Lester relied on section 19(1) which provided that "the licensing authority shall in particular take into consideration..."

He submitted that those provisions established that the relevant factors to which the Secretary of State had to have regard, were not confined to the safety, efficacy and quality of the medicinal products, which although the principal were not the sole criteria to be taken into consideration.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Collins that that was an inadequate foundation for the assertion that Parliament intended the licensing authority to take into account matters entirely foreign to considerations of safety, efficacy and quality.

Parliament's intention in enacting section 19 was to identify the three considerations to which the licensing authority had to have regard and then to give further general directions to the authority as to how it should apply those considerations.

The express exclusion of price considerations provided by section 20(2) merely made clear that safety, efficacy and quality were not to be judged in economic terms. Clearly, if infringements of trade mark rights were relevant, so must be potential infringements of all private rights.

But since the grant of a licence did not purport to absolve the licensee from complying with the civil law, and that was made clear in the leaflet and circular letter, there was no warrant for suggesting that Parliament intended that the licensing authority should concern itself, not only with issues of safety, efficacy and quality of the medicinal product but with third-party rights relative to that product.

There was a further pointer that considerations of infringements of private rights were irrelevant. Section 28 gave the general power to suspend, revoke or vary licences essentially on the ground of public safety.

Mr Lester argued that as the licensing authority had no power to suspend, revoke or vary a licence, if it subsequently discovered that the name under which the product was to be sold in the UK would result in the breach of a third party's trade mark.

It would be odd if the licensing authority had the statutory obligation to refuse to grant a licence if it knew that the importer intended to use that licence to facilitate a breach of copyright, and yet if it subsequently discovered that fact, it could neither suspend, revoke nor vary the licence.

Accordingly, his Lordship would conclude that trade mark issues were not matters which the Act expressly or impliedly authorised the licensing authority to consider.

Lord Bridge, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Brandon and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Theodore Goddard; Treasury Solicitor.

Brady and Another v Brady and Another
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Havers, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton
[Speeches May 19]

In considering, under section 153(2)(a) of the Companies Act 1985, whether the giving by a company of financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares was an incidental part of a larger purpose of the company so as to be exempted from the prohibition against such assistance in section 151(2) of the Act, a narrow concept of "larger purpose" was to be applied. It was not enough that the assistance in question was a blank cheque for the avoidance of section 151.

The House of Lords so held in allowing, on other grounds, an appeal against the reversal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Nourse; Lord Justice Croom-Johnson dissenting) (1987) 1 W.L.R. 1166 of an order by the trial judge for specific performance of an agreement for the corporate reorganization of a group of companies through which a family business had been run.

The appellants and respondents, who were all related, had sought by the scheme to divide the business into two after disagreements between them had led to preventing providing a contract on those terms might be ill-advised. But that, at any rate, was not the issue in the present case.

It was, of course, always the case where a debtor company had no assets other than shares in its subsidiary companies that its ability to meet its commitments depended upon the fortunes of its subsidiaries. That was to say no more than that a debtor's ability to pay depended upon the value of its assets.

His Lordship knew of no rule of law which prohibited a parent company from borrowing from its subsidiary simply because it had no assets other than its holding of shares in the lender subsidiary.

In the present case both companies had among their objects a corporate purpose enabling them to dispose of assets for consideration and, as had been pointed out by the trial judge, the adequacy of the consideration was a matter upon which the directors had to form a judgment.

But the fact that it might only be barely equal in value to what was disposed of or that it might prove, in certain circumstances, to be irrecoverable in whole or in part, did not turn the transaction into one for which there was no consideration or render it otherwise *ultra vires*. The proposed transfers were therefore authorized by the companies' corporate objects.

It followed that if the claim for specific performance was to be resisted it could only be on the ground that the transaction infringed section 151.

Section 153(2) provided: "(2) Section 151(2) does not prohibit a company from giving financial assistance if—(a) the company's principal purpose in giving the assistance is to secure or discharge any liability incurred by a person for the purpose of the acquisition of shares in the company or its holding company, or the reduction or discharge of any such liability is an incidental part of some larger purpose of the company, and (b) the assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the company."

In the circumstances of the present case, where the failure to implement the final stage of the scheme for the division of the two sides of the business was likely to lead back to the very management deadlock that the scheme was designed to avoid and the probable liquidation of the company as a result, the proposed transfer was indeed, viewed objectively, a means of securing the company's survival and was given in good faith in the interests of the company.

The concept of a "larger purpose" in sub-paragraph (a), however, was not easy to grasp. If the sub-paragraph was to be in effect provide a blank cheque for avoiding the effective application of section 151 in every case, the concept had to be narrower than that for which the appellants had contended.

The words "larger purpose" had to have the same meaning as in section 153(1)(a). In applying section 153(1)(a) one had to look for some larger purpose in the giving of financial assistance than the mere purpose of the acquisition of shares and to ask whether the giving of assistance was a mere incident of that purpose.

"Purpose" was, in some contexts, a word of art. It was in construing it in the context of the provisions of sections 151 and 153 that it was important to distinguish between a purpose and the reason why a purpose was formed.

The ultimate reason for forming the purpose of financing an acquisition might, and in most cases probably would, be more important to those making the decision than the immediate transaction itself. But "larger" was not the same thing as "more important" nor was "reason" the same as "purpose".

If one postulated the case of a bidder for control of a public company financing his bid from the company's own funds—the obvious mischief at which the section was aimed—the immediate purpose which it was sought to achieve was that of completing the acquisition and vesting control of the company in the bidder. The reasons why that course was considered desirable might be many and varied.

The company might have fallen on hard times so that a change of management was considered necessary to avert disaster. It might merely be

thought, and no doubt would be thought, by the purchaser and the directors whom he nominated that the business of the company would be more profitable under his management than it was heretofore.

Those might be excellent reasons, but they could not constitute a "larger purpose" of which the provision of assistance was merely an incident.

The purpose and the only purpose of the financial assistance was and remained that of enabling the bidder to be acquired and the financial or commercial advantages flowing from the acquisition, while they might form the reason for forming the purpose of providing assistance, were a by-product of it rather than an independent purpose of which the assistance could properly be considered to be an incident.

The scheme of reorganization in the present case did not satisfy section 153(2)(a) and if the matter rested there the appeal ought to fail on that ground. It was therefore necessary to consider two additional points which the appellants had sought to raise in their written case.

There were well known observations as to the reluctance with which the House entertained points which parties had not sought to raise in the court below. The reluctance was greatly increased if the point was one which would necessitate a further investigation of facts or of the law, or which would require the court to exercise its discretion to the detriment of the other party which could not be compensated in costs.

On the other hand, it had to be borne in mind that it was a final appeal and that it would be entirely unsatisfactory if it required the court to give effect to a declaration of the illegality of an agreement when in fact there was a conclusive answer in law to that contention.

His Lordship (having considered the additional points) held that a complete answer to section 151 in the present case was to be found in sections 156 and 158 of the Act, which provided that where financial assistance was provided by a private company in connection with the acquisition of its shares or the shares of its parent company (being also a private company) the prohibitions in section 151 could be disapplied in certain circumstances.

The appeal would be allowed, subject to terms that the respondents should be ordered to pay the appellants' costs. If the respondents were to succeed, it would be to the detriment of the appellants, who had abandoned before the trial judge.

Lord Keith, Lord Templeman and Lord Griffiths agreed.

LORD HAVERS, also agreeing, stated that he would not like it to be too readily assumed that the House would be given in favour of an appeal on a point which had not been argued in the courts below.

Solicitors: Alexander Tatham & Co., Manchester; Slater Hecks, Manchester.

Possessor of stuffed eagle has to prove lawful reason for its death

Robinson v Everett and Another
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Kennedy
[Judgment May 19]

A golden eagle remained a "dead wild bird" within the meaning of section 1(2)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, even after it had been stuffed and mounted.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by Peter John Robinson, the prosecutor on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, against the acquittals of Malcolm Kenneth Everett and W. & F.C. Bonham & Son Ltd on charges of possessing a dead golden eagle contrary to section 1(2)(a) of the 1981 Act, by Sir Bryan Roberts, South Westminster Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate. The case was remitted for trial by another bench.

Mr Rodger Bell, QC and Mr Mark Love for the appellants; Mr Michael Pratt, QC and Mr David Lock for Everett; Mr John Bates for Bonhams.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was accepted that at the material time and place each respondent had in his possession or control a mounted and stuffed golden eagle, which was a wild bird of the species to which section 1(2)(a) applied.

Mr Pratt submitted that after the eagle had been stuffed it was no longer a "dead wild bird" within the meaning of the section. That provision was really intended to deal with the poacher who was caught in possession of a bird which had just died.

In that sort of situation the person in possession of the bird could reasonably be called upon for an explanation. He could reasonably be expected to undertake the burden of proving innocent possession if he was to escape criminal liability, and that was precisely what Parliament had enacted in section 1(3).

But, Mr Pratt contended, it would be quite unreasonable to impose that burden on the possessor of a stuffed bird which might have been dead for years. That was something which Parliament could not have intended.

However, his Lordship said that there were a number of reasons why those submissions had to be rejected.

In the first place there was no doubt as to the meaning of the words used in section 1(2)(a) of the statute.

The court did not see how it could be said that the object in the glass case was no longer a dead wild bird. Anyone who asked what it was would be told that it was an eagle and plainly it was not a stuffed eagle.

From what the court had been told much of the body would have been disposed of by the taxidermist, but even a purist would concede that what remained to be mounted was part of a dead bird, and section 1(2)(a) expressly applied to any part.

Finally, as Mr Pratt conceded, there was nothing in section 1(2)(a) and 1(3) which expressly indicated that a possessor could only be required to account for a dead wild bird of which he had recently acquired possession.

Turning to the two statutory defences upon which the respondents sought to rely, section 1(3)(a) enabled a possessor

of all or part of a dead wild bird to escape criminal liability if he showed that the bird had not been killed or taken or that it had been killed or taken otherwise than in contravention of section 1(1)(a). The evidence at the close of the prosecution case did not go that far.

So the question then arose as to whether the bird had been "taken". All the earlier legislation plainly equated "taking" with "killing" and it was necessary to have been applicable only to live birds. Some confirmation of that view was to be found in *Tarvis v Lucas* [1919] 2 KB 291, 297.

Consequently the court held that in section 1(1) "takes" meant "captures" and nothing else.

So, any person charged under section 1(2)(a) with having a dead wild bird in his possession was by virtue of section 1(3) to be found not guilty if he proved that he had been applicable only to live birds.

Each of those services was of a cross-border nature within the meaning of article 59 of the Treaty. In each case those who provided the services were established in a member state other than some of those who benefited from it.

The two services in question were also provided against remuneration within the meaning of article 60.

On the one hand, the cable network operators were paid for the service which they provided to broadcasters by means of the charges which they imposed on their subscribers.

Article 60 of the Treaty did not require that the service concerned should be provided to those who benefited from it. On the other hand, broadcasters were paid by advertisers for the services which they provided by broadcasting advertisements.

Restrictions on freedom to provide services.

A prohibition of advertising such as that contained in the Kabelregeling constituted a double restriction on the freedom to provide services.

On the one hand, it prevented operators of cable networks established in a member state from transmitting television programmes made available by broadcasters established in other member states.

On the other hand, it prevented operators of cable networks established in a member state from transmitting television programmes made available by broadcasters established in other member states.

The Dutch system was discriminatory because the prohibition of advertising contained in the Kabelregeling deprived broadcasters established in other member states of any possibility of advertising through their channels.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows: A Provision of services.

The broadcasting of the programmes in question, as established in other member states, was prohibited by article 59 of the Treaty.

The sole purpose of the prohibition of sub-titling which affected broadcasters established in other member states was to prohibit advertising which, as had already been made clear, amounted to a restriction on the freedom to provide services prohibited by article 59 of the Treaty.

C Justification for restrictions.

Objectives of an economic nature such as that of ensuring that a public foundation received all the income deriving

from advertising intended specifically for the public of the state in question, could not constitute grounds of public policy within article 56.

The measures adopted pursuant to article 56 were not to be disproportionate in relation to the objective pursued. As an exception to a fundamental principle of the Treaty, article 56 of that Treaty had to be interpreted in such a way that its effects were limited to what was necessary for the protection of the interests which it sought to guarantee.

The Dutch Government itself recognized that there were less restrictive and non-discriminatory means of achieving the objectives pursued. So commercial broadcasters established in other member states might be given the choice of complying with objective restrictions on the broadcasting of advertisements such as the prohibition of advertising certain products or on certain days, limitations on the length or frequency of advertisements (restrictions which would also be imposed on national broadcasting organizations) or, if they did not wish to comply with such rules, to refrain from broadcasting advertising material intended specifically for the Dutch public.

As the Court had held in Case 52/79 *Procureur du Roi v Dewaere* [1980] ECR 833, in the absence of any harmonization of the relevant national laws, each member state had the power to regulate, restrict or even totally prohibit television advertising on its territory on the ground of general interest so long as those laws treated all such services identically whatever their origin or the nationality or place of establishment of the persons providing them.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 The transmission, through the intermediary of operators of cable networks established in a member state, of television programmes made available by broadcasters established in other member states which contained advertisements intended specifically for the public of the receiving state, involved the provision of services within the meaning of articles 59 and 60 of the Treaty.

2 Prohibition of advertising and sub-titling such as those contained in the Kabelregeling were restrictions on the freedom to provide services which were prohibited by article 59 of the Treaty.

3 Those prohibitions could not be justified on the ground of public policy within the meaning of article 56 of the Treaty.

that the bird had neither been killed nor captured or if killed or captured by any person the act of killing or capturing was not intentional or if killed no person was responsible.

Further, on the facts the respondents had failed to make out the defence under section 1(3)(a).

Solicitors: Winter Wilkinson, Newcastle; Payne Skillington, Newcastle; Wright Son & Pepper.

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European Law Report

Luxembourg

Ban on TV advertisements from abroad is unlawful restraint

Bond van Adverteerders and Others v State of The Netherlands
Case 332/85
Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, Due, J. C. Mothu de Almeida, G. C. Rougier, Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, J. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler
Advocate-General G. F. Mancini
[Opinion January 14, 1988] [Judgment April 26]

The laws of a member state which had the effect of prohibiting the transmission of advertising material directed at consumers within that state by broadcasters established in other member states constituted a restriction on the freedom to provide services and was prohibited by article 59 of the EEC Treaty.

Article 4(1)(c) of the Dutch Kabelregeling (regulation concerning television) had the effect of prohibiting the cable transmission of radio and television programmes broadcast from other member states where those programmes included advertisements specifically aimed at Dutch consumers or were sub-titled in Dutch.

The Bond van Adverteerders (advertisers association), 14 advertising agencies and the operator of a cable network brought proceedings for the provisional suspension of those prohibitions which, in their view, were contrary to articles 59 and 60 of the EEC Treaty.

On appeal the Gerechtshof (regional court of appeal), The Hague, stayed the proceedings and referred a number of questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows: A Provision of services.

The broadcasting of the programmes in question, as established in other member states, was prohibited by article 59 of the Treaty.

The sole purpose of the prohibition of sub-titling which affected broadcasters established in other member states was to prohibit advertising which, as had already been made clear, amounted to a restriction on the freedom to provide services prohibited by article 59 of the Treaty.

C Justification for restrictions.

Objectives of an economic nature such as that of ensuring that a public foundation received all the income deriving

Scots Law Report May 20 1988 Inner House 2

Health board cannot claim Crown immunity as a defence

British Medical Association v Greater Glasgow Health Board
Before Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross), Lord Dunpark and Lord Mayfield
[Advised March 10]

A health board constituted pursuant to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 was not encompassed within "the Crown" for the purposes of section 21 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, being a mere agent of the Crown. Accordingly, it was not incompetent to seek interim interdict against a health board.

The Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, adhering to an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary (Lord Prosser) granting interdict against the Greater Glasgow Health Board.

Section 21(1) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, read together with section 43 of the Act, provides that:

"In any civil proceedings by or against the Crown the court shall have power to make all such orders as it has power to make in proceedings between subjects, and otherwise to give such appropriate relief as the case may require."

"Provided that (a) where in any proceedings against the Crown any such relief is sought as might be granted by way of interdict or specific implement, the court shall not grant an interdict or make an order declaratory of the rights of the parties..."

Mr Ronald N. M. McLean, QC and Mr Matthew Clarke for the health board; Mr Colin Campbell for the BMA.

The LORD JUSTICE-CLERK said that on February 26, 1987, the Lord Ordinary had granted interim interdict against the board preventing it from interviewing candidates for the position of Consultant in Hospital, Glasgow.

At the original hearing before the Lord Ordinary, the board had appeared by virtue of a contract and stated a plea to the effect that it was not competent to grant the interdict sought by the BMA.

The Lord Ordinary had rejected that contention and had granted interim interdict in terms of the prayer of the petition. That interlocutor was not reclaimed against.

Before the Lord Ordinary there had been some doubt as to whether the board sought to argue that it was encompassed within "the Crown" for the

NORWICH

FOCUS

Fine city hiding in a big village



Nestling in a quiet corner 100 miles from London, Norwich has always appeared to outsiders to be well off the beaten track. Yet apart from its medieval charm, it is sturdily efficient, always reflecting the fact that it was once England's second city and is still a regional capital

"A fine city, Norwich." "Very flat, Norfolk." George Borrow's tribute is echoed by Noel Coward's ironic phrase of dismissal. Both city and country are, it is implied, faraway places of which we know little.

Quite why Norwich, a mere hundred miles from London, should be seen as somewhere off the beaten track is something of a mystery. Until the advent of the Industrial Revolution it laid claim, along with York and Bristol, to be England's second city. It has a long and proud heritage, and a distinctive character that immediately impresses itself on the visitor. Part of the answer lies in communications, or lack of them.

The motorway network that spans much of Britain, and which was intended to bring new prosperity to those regions that had fallen on hard times, conspicuously avoids East Anglia. The best that the Department of Transport has been able to come up with is a promise that of the 60 miles that separate Norwich from the northern end of the M11, near Cambridge, 46 will be dual-carriageway by 1992.

It is not much of a commitment. British Rail has at least got around to electrifying the main line from Liverpool Street, but the service still leaves much to be desired, for reliability. A new signalling system will, it is said, improve matters.

For visitors arriving by rail, the terminal buffers reinforce the impression that Norwich

is the end of the line, on the way to nowhere. But to the extent that anywhere in a small country like Britain can claim to be isolated, Norwich might be seen to revel in its independence. If governments over the last 30 years have neglected its claims for consideration, it could be because it was considered a city that was well-equipped to take care of its own affairs.

Much of Norfolk may indeed be flat, but not Norwich. Its Norman castle stands on a hill high above steep and winding alleyways that intersect a wealth of historic buildings. Besides its two cathedrals, it contains no fewer

AT A GLANCE

- Population: 122,000
- Area of city: 3,907 hectares
- Number of domestic properties: 52,294
- Council dwellings: 23,125
- Rateable value: £23,842,468
- Parks, gardens and recreation grounds: 302.46 hectares
- Main industries: food-processing, communications, shoe-making, insurance, printing, chemicals, banking and financial services

than 32 medieval parish churches.

Nominally it has a population of little more than 120,000, but that is because the historical boundaries remain tightly drawn. It is indisputably the "capital" of East Anglia. It is the home of Anglia Television, the regional studios of the BBC and one of the biggest newspaper chains in the country.

The "Anglian" connotation is inseparable from Norwich. In a country which has es-

poused centralized government and eschewed regionalism, it has preserved a near-unique political status. For the most part, it escaped the upheavals of the industrial revolution. And when the developers moved in, as they did everywhere else, in the 1960s and 1970s, they did relatively little damage.

The long, slow and sad decline of rural England probably affected Norwich less than it did its rival, Ipswich. The intrusion of contemporary ugly Britain has been mollified by the feeling that Norwich remains, in an off-repeated phrase, "a big village", where everybody knows

everybody and where affairs are conducted in the reasonably safe knowledge that nobody in Whitehall cares that much anyway. But they really should care. Norwich is indeed a fine city, fortunate perhaps in what it has inherited and what it has managed to escape, but with much to be proud about. It shares some of the problems of other large provincial towns and cities, such as traffic congestion, but overall it is well-governed, self-confident and patently a good place to live.

A quarter of a century ago, the late architectural historian, Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, who was often scathing about what he disliked, remarked simply: "Norwich has everything."

Not quite everything perhaps, but a great deal certainly.



Cathedral cricket: Pupils of Norwich School playing by the great building



Patricia Hollis, council leader: cooperating with capitalism

Labour's smile

Anyone whose idea of a typical city council leader is either a pompous alderman, replete with paunch, gold watch and cigar or perhaps a demagogue donating ratepayers' money to maverick minorities should meet Patricia Hollis. She is an attractive, articulate redhead, a senior history lecturer at the University of East Anglia and clearly a woman who believes that charm works much better than stridency in municipal politics.

She would be a decided asset to Westminster, although one suspects that her commitment is more to her academic career, her home and family, and the city that in many ways she typifies.

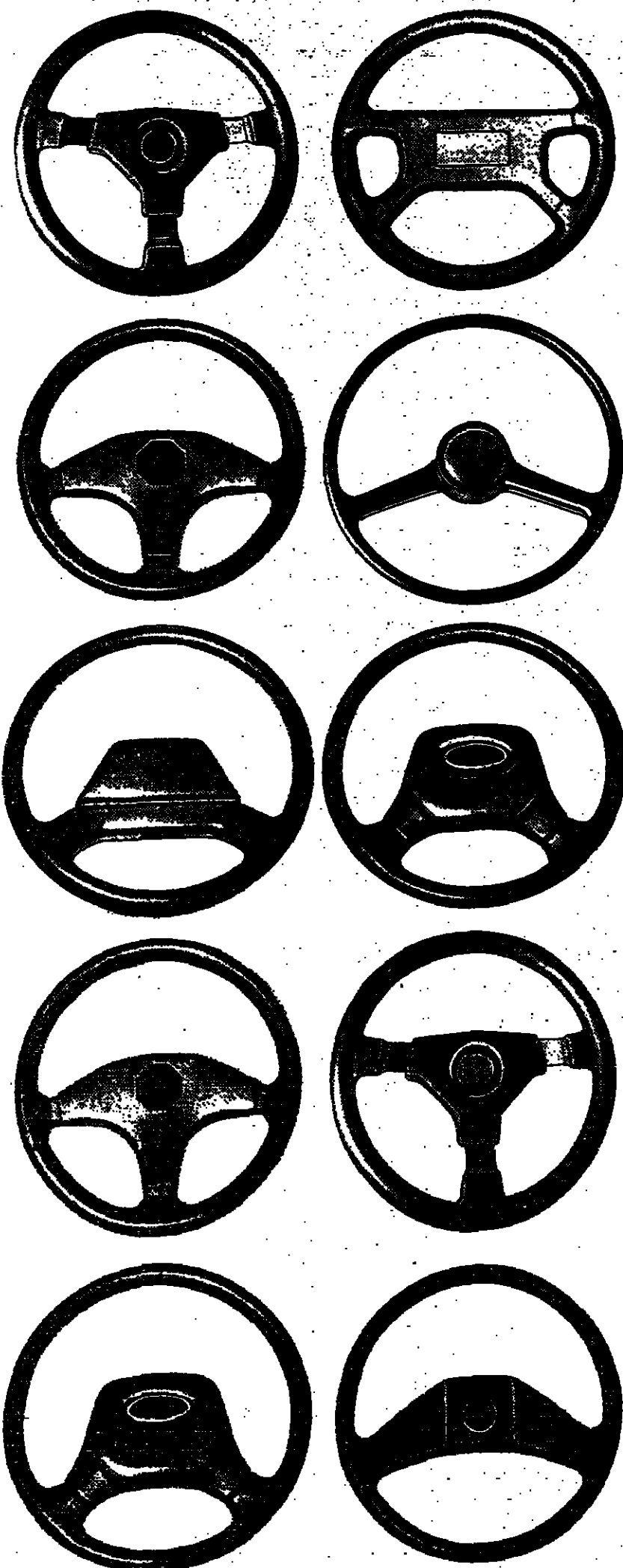
Norwich has always been a political curiosity. In the heart of what is now — although it has not always been — some of the truest and bluest Tory territory in Britain, the council has had 55 years of uninterrupted Labour rule. The party now holds three-quarters of the seats, and speculation is confined to the question of who will succeed the vivacious and highly popular Mrs Hollis when she reaches the end of her five-year term.

Labour's strength has its roots in a long history of radicalism. The Huguenots who fled from Flanders in the 17th century brought with them not only their skills and knowledge of the textile trade, but a spirit of dissent and non-conformity. As one of the largest and most important cities outside London, Norwich revelled in being different.

This radicalism from time to time spilt over into the countryside. The Tolpuddle Martyrs, in Dorset, may be considered the first trade unionists, but it was in Norfolk that the agricultural workers first formed themselves into a body, established their headquarters and later staged their first ill-fated strike.

But the non-conformist tradition has firmly excluded any sort of extremism. Patricia Hollis has little in common with, and less sympathy for, her militant sisters elsewhere. "You won't see the Red Flag flying here," she says. "We don't go in for infantile gestures."

Not going in for infantile gestures also means cooperating with commerce and capitalism. The city fathers — and mothers — have long taken the view that jobs and expansion benefit local people, rather than threaten them. There can be few, if any, local authorities in Britain that have developed closer links with their chambers of commerce. The county, city and adjoining district councils are all subscribing members of the chamber, and councillors sit on its committees. Its president is a former Labour mayor, who is also treasurer of the university, and a senior Labour councillor is its assistant director.



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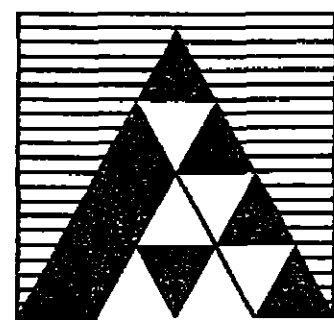
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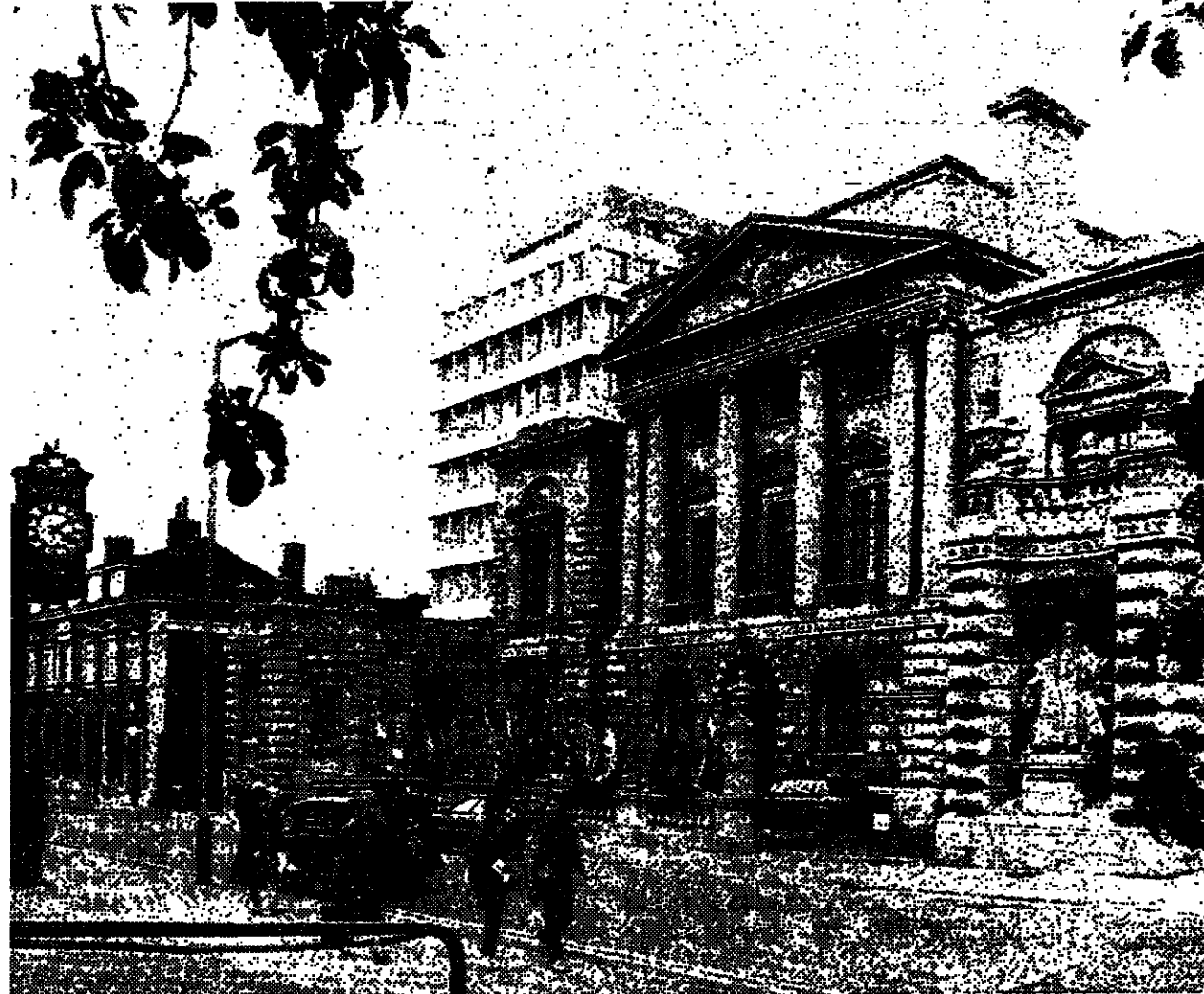
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NORWICH/2

FOCUS



Alex Millar-Brown, director of the city's chamber of commerce, and the headquarters of the Norwich Union insurance company



The boom effect hits home



The giant Norwich Union insurance company recently made a startling announcement. For the next three years the company was ready to guarantee a job to every school leaver in the city who obtained three or more O-level passes in the General Certificate of Education. It already employs more than 4,000 people in its head-office complex, so it could hardly have been complaining of staff shortages, still less expecting that the best and brightest of the youths of Norwich would unanimously opt for a career in insurance.

More likely it was simply making the point that the remarkable expansion of the financial services sector is likely to continue for several more years yet, and that it will be making corresponding de-

mands on the employment market. Norwich has historically been blessed with a well-balanced local economy. It lies in the midst of what has been, at least until recently, a prosperous rural hinterland, although there are lengthening shadows over the future of agriculture.

While the textile industry, founded by 17th-century Flemish immigrants, and footwear manufacture have been in decline for some time, there has been compensating growth in food-processing, printing and publishing, electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, metal goods, wood products and pharmaceuticals.

There is no more than a handful of big names among them, a questionnaire sent to industrialists outside East Anglia identified only the Norwich Union and Reckitt and Colman as being closely associated with the city. Few were aware of the close proximity of the Lotus en-

gineering group, at Hethel, which plans to expand its workforce from 900 to around 2,200 in the next five years. Rowntree Mackintosh, making headlines now because of the takeover bid by the Swiss Nestlé group, employs 1,200 people locally but is more readily associated with York.

The expanding "media" industry is a success story. The *Eastern Daily Press*, published by Eastern Counties Newspapers which also owns

HM Stationery Office has £300m turnover

the *East Anglian Times* in Ipswich, claims the largest circulation, 92,000, of any provincial daily newspaper in Britain.

The city is also the headquarters of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, with a staff of 1,200 and an annual turnover of £300 million, and of the

well known publishing company, Jarrold & Sons.

Diversification and the absence of a single dominant industry have undoubtedly been to the city's advantage. They have fostered a relaxed approach to changes in the national economy, and have appealed to entrepreneurs seeking a sympathetic and encouraging environment.

The problem for Norwich lies in reconciling an unemployment rate of around 10 per cent with overheating in the demand for skilled labour. A network of "training access points" has been established to provide a computerized service for people needing to learn new skills.

The self-deprecating assessment that Norwich is "on the road to nowhere" conflicts with the fact that in the last year or two it has been drawn into the south-east boom, and property prices have rocketed.

Peter Townroe, of the University of East Anglia's Economics Research Centre and author of a new economic study of the city and its surrounding area, confesses that circumstances changed dramatically between the start and the completion of the report. He said: "The challenge now is to channel growth into the right areas, rather than just creating jobs willy-nilly."

Alex Millar-Brown, director-general of the Chamber of Commerce, talks of the need to balance the demands of manufacturing industry, commerce, agriculture, tourism and research. But he too has succumbed to Norwich's laid-back attractions.

"Some people have described it as the graveyard of ambition, meaning that once you come here you never want to move," he said. "I've been here 13 years, and I could not escape from the place even if I wanted to."

Modern shops over medieval discoveries

Norwich is, to use estate agent's jargon, "under-shopped". That means not that it lacks customers but that it does not provide the facilities that contemporary affluent society demands from a regional centre.

All that is about to change with the go-ahead for the Castle Mall centre, the biggest single development undertaken in the city. Friends Provident and Estates & General are investing £60 million in a new 350,000 sq ft complex on the site of the former cattle market, which in recent years has been used as an unsightly car and coach park.

It is being touted as an imaginative answer to the problems of reconciling a medieval city with the needs of the late 20th century, streets ahead of the destructive comprehensive re-development schemes of the last two decades. Its central feature will be a huge glazed gallery, giving the impression of a giant conservatory, with two levels of shopping, including five main stores and 52 smaller units. The scheme, due for completion in 1991, includes 1,000 underground car spaces and pedestrian links to the present main shopping areas.

Excavation of the site has already begun and is expected to disclose some fascinating aspects of the city's past. Deposits are said to range from the Saxon to the post-Medieval periods, and should enhance understanding of the origins and early development of Norwich and the relationship of the castle to the surrounding borough.

The Saxon settlement had by the time of the Norman Conquest coalesced into the third-biggest town in Britain, at the centre of the most densely populated area of the country. Yet little is known about it, and the archaeological aspects of the scheme have aroused great excitement.

The re-development proposals, by Lambert Scott & James, have been approved by the Royal Fine Arts Commission and English Heritage and, besides affording the opportunity for the largest medieval excavation in Europe, seem set to provide Norwich with the sort of focus it badly needs.



The headquarters of Anglia Television, where a reputation for quality programmes has been built

Anglia is confident of its survival

So many uncertainties hang over the future of television that no company in the business can be certain about its position in a few years' time. Satellite and cable broadcasting, together with the revision of franchises, which may or may not go out to commercial tender, could mean that the present familiar four-channel pattern split between the BBC and ITV will be radically changed by the end of the century.

On the other hand it may not. The public appetite for an ever greater choice of programmes may not be as great as those seeking a piece of the action would have us believe.

There is a strong case for allowing the regional companies that have served their catchment areas well, and contributed programmes of high quality nationally, to carry on with the good work. Anglia, in its Norwich headquarters, is showing plenty

of confidence in its future. It recently announced that it would spend £30 million this year on new programmes — 50 per cent more than last year — and launched a new corporate symbol for the 1990s.

Last year the company screened more than 100 hours of drama, entertainment and documentaries for the national network. More recent items include the three-part thriller, *Menace Unseen*, shown earlier this month, and a new series of the popular *Tales of the Unexpected*.

Another big production is a six-part adaptation of a P. D. James murder mystery, *A Taste for Death*. The programme with which the company is probably most identified is the world-famous wildlife series, *Survival*. The universal appeal of the subject has made it a bestseller abroad, especially in the US,

where it has been shown at peak-viewing times.

Anglia employs 800 people, and last August it became the first station to broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is also a founder-member of British Satellite Broadcasting, which is due to come into operation next year.

Some people may regret the disappearance of the silver-knight symbol that has identified the station for the last 29 years. Handel's *Water Music* is also to be replaced by an "orchestral fanfare" written by Nic Rowley, an award-winning British composer.

But according to David McCall, the company's chief executive, recent research showed that Anglia's presentation was perceived as old-fashioned. Besides, it appeared that the knight could not be adapted to the latest electronic technology.

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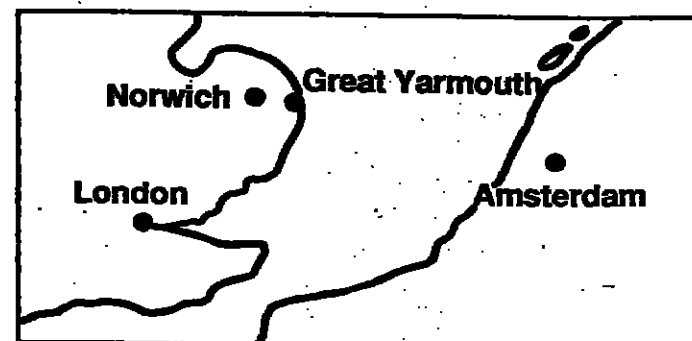
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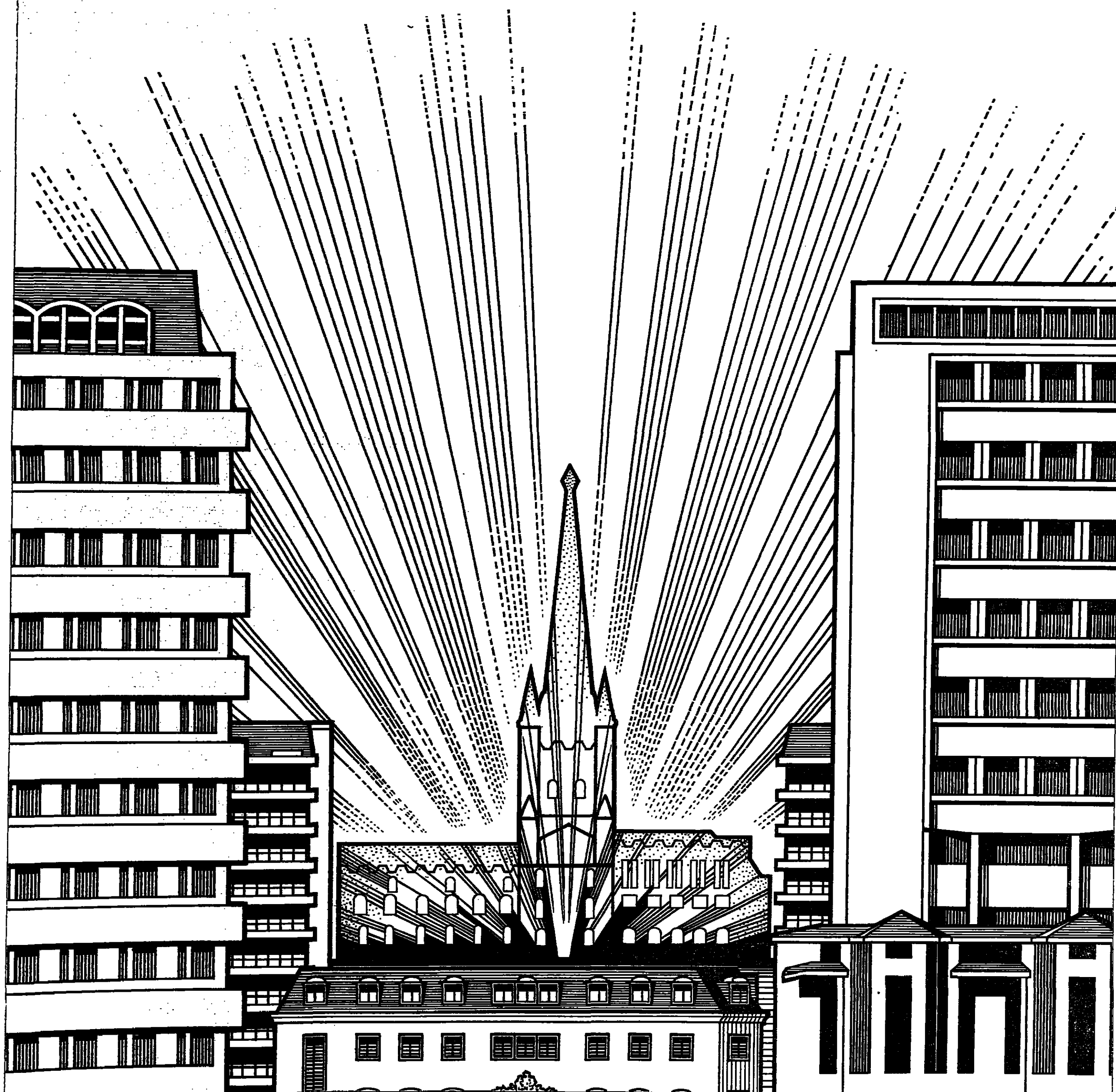
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NORWICH/3

Research to help a food county stay at the top



It is a reflection of the fast-food and TV age in which we live that one of the candidates for Norfolk's most famous citizen of the late 20th century should be Bernard Matthews. Aside from his commercial success, the meat-producer reflects the fact that Norwich is the capital of what is still the most productive food-producing region of Britain.

Agriculture may be less important to the economy of East Anglia than it once was, but food is just as important and interesting to society as a whole as it has ever been.

The current obsession with diet and nutrition means that food research is playing an increasingly significant part in the work of the Agricultural and Food Research Council, and Norwich is convinced of its claim to be the national centre of research activity.

Last year, after his appointment as Minister of Agriculture, John MacGregor, who represents a Norfolk constituency, paid an informal visit to the government-funded Institute of Food Research at Colney, on the outskirts of Norwich.

With doubtless more than half an eye on his position as a local MP, he suggested that the city could become an international centre of science and technology.

But Mr MacGregor was not simply doing a bit of post-election campaigning. It was significant that when the Plant Breeding Institute, in Cambridge, was partially privatized last year and sold to Unilever, its remaining functions were transferred to the John Innes Institute, which is also in Colney.

Both laboratory complexes lie just across the river from the University of East Anglia, which has its own School of Chemical and

Biological Sciences, with nearly 200 graduate research students.

Not far away is the British Sugar Corporation research laboratory, which also has close links with the university.

The sum total of all this amounts to more than 750 scientists and an annual expenditure of £16 million. It is probably the largest concentration of expertise of its kind in Europe and, in the view of Alex Millar-Brown, director of the Chamber of Commerce, and many other people, it is an under-utilized asset which badly needs to be exploited and marketed more effectively.

"We will eventually need a biotechnology park," he says.

The new Norwich Area Economic Study, published last year, also wonders whether more could not be made of this important asset for the future prosperity of the area.

The study points out that, besides its links with farming, the Norwich region contains no fewer than 47 companies processing agricultural produce and manufacturing food products.

The best-known, apart from Bernard Matthews, are Rowntree Mackintosh, Colman Foods — the branch of the Reckitt and Colman multinational most widely associated with Norwich — and B. Brooks (Norwich) Ltd, which is part-owned by a New Zealand lamb-producers' co-operative.

It observes that though there are some links between the companies and the institutes, they are not as strong as might be expected. Can they be developed further?

"The answer has to be a qualified 'yes', but it is a 'yes' that does require greater initiative from the Norwich area than has hitherto been the case."

ALAN HOWARD



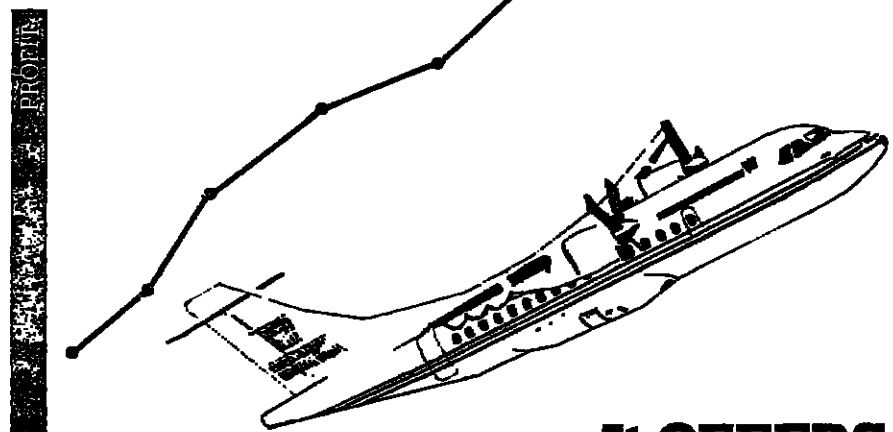
Weekend assembly line at a plant owned by Rowntree, the York confectionery company

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FOCUS



Norwich castle, which looks over the city centre, and above, Norwich market, which is reputedly the biggest in the country



Tourist trap about to be unlocked

Norwich probably has as many historic and beautiful buildings as any provincial city in Britain, and can be compared with York, Edinburgh or Oxford. Apart from its cathedrals and churches, it has many lovely timbered houses lining quiet, cobbled streets, four museums and an attractive, though at present under-utilized, riverfront.

As well as a concert hall, in a 15th-century Dominican friary, it has the Theatre Royal, one of Britain's most successful provincial theatres, which regularly stages opera and ballet as well as pre-West End try-outs. The city hosts a triennial arts festival, and annual jazz and folk festivals.

It has a fair selection of restaurants, some good pubs, secondhand bookshops and what is said to be the country's largest street market.

Historical associations include Nelson, Elizabeth Fry and Edith Cavell. Yet it attracts only a fraction of the number of visitors that go to places like Chester and Bath. Though Norfolk is Britain's sixth-largest tourist county — with estimated expenditure in 1984 of some £210 million — Norwich itself accounts for only about a fifth of this.

The biggest crowds are to be found on wet days in July and August when holidaymakers from Great Yarmouth and other resorts are looking for an alternative to the beach.

Norwich's notorious "isolation" and its long-time lack of good travel links are part of the answer. But it is also true to say that the city has failed to sell itself as a place worth visiting for its historic attractions, where "culture-seeking" (and wealthier) tourists

might choose to spend a night or two. Though the city has half a dozen three-star hotels, there is a decided shortage of accommodation in the cheaper range. There are no purpose-built conference facilities, and car parking in the central area is generally agreed to be inadequate.

But things are changing. Last year the Chamber of Commerce and the East Anglia Tourist Board, backed by local authorities and industry, agreed on a three-year "tourist development action programme" to examine ways of exploiting what is undoubtedly a neglected asset.

Four new hotels are planned or under way and 10 other possible sites have been identified. There are plans to redevelop the riverside between the railway station and the Carrow Road football ground. The new east-west

southern bypass should ease traffic congestion and make the city more accessible from the Midlands and other parts of Britain.

A new terminal was recently opened at the city's airport, which now has regular services to many British cities, including London, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Newcastle, Leeds-Bradford and Manchester. There are scheduled flights to Amsterdam, and a new service to Paris is due to start later this year.

British Rail has introduced a new hourly cross-country "sprinter" service to Cambridge, Peterborough and Birmingham. The east coast ports, notably Harwich and Felixstowe, are thriving, and East Anglia as a whole is starting to understand that a densely populated part of Europe lies only just across the North Sea.

University looks to a regional role

"The cuts were last year's story," the vice-chancellor says with a smile. "We have come to terms with the savings we were required to make, and in fact we have implemented about 90 per cent of them. Now we are looking to the future."

The University of East Anglia is one of the seven postwar British universities; it is set in parkland on the edge of Norwich, and admitted its first students in 1963.

In August 1986 it was warned by the University Grants Committee to expect a substantial reduction in government funding. Though it was in much the same position as the rest of academia, it made its views more forcefully felt than most.

All departments were asked to consider reducing expenditure by between 11 and 19 per cent. The resulting consultative document, *A Forward Look*, caused something of a furore and provoked fears that the Departments of Development Studies and Music might have to be closed.

It was in these unpromising circumstances that Professor Derek Burke arrived in January last year to take up the vice-chancellorship. The appoint-

ment was a shrewd one because he had the relatively rare experience among university dons of having spent four years in business management in the US.

Faced with a reduction in his budget of more than 17 per cent, his first task was to make economies which included, among other things, cutting the staff of the sociology department from 12 to four and reducing undergraduate admissions to the education department by 72 places. "Over the next five years," he points out, "there will be big changes as the universities compete with each other for resources and students. We have to decide what we are good at and what is our natural role."

"We have already become much less dependent on the UGC, and we must go out and market our skills and our services more effectively."

"I am very conscious that as the only institute of higher education in East Anglia, we have an important regional role."

With student applications up by 15 per cent this year, Professor Burke confesses to feeling "bullish". He is confident that the university's record



Professor Burke: big changes

and reputation stand high in several subjects, including economic research, environmental sciences, art history and music, and international relations.

Iconoclasts might also rejoice that Malcolm Bradbury, that splendid scourge of academic pretension and hypocrisy, runs a course in creative writing.

One of the UEA's most fortunate attributes lies in its links with the Sainsbury family. Not only does the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts add a touch of architectural innovation to the generally rather drab concrete buildings of the campus, but members of the family have within the last 18 months made two notable endowments.

To mark the golden wedding anniversary of Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, a £4½ million grant was made to fund a new unit for the arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas; soon afterwards it was announced that David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket chain, would provide £15 million over the next 10 years to establish and endow a new plant-disease research laboratory at the nearby John Innes Institute.

But the university also needs fairy godfathers and godmothers to succour its famous music school, which was established under the guidance of none other than the late Sir Benjamin Britten. After 1990 it will not be able to fund the performance course at its present level, and it is seeking £150,000 to establish 25 new music-performance scholarships.

House prices up 50%

One inevitable side-effect of Norwich's having joined the south-east economic boom is a sharp rise in house prices. According to Arnold Son & Hockley, a firm of chartered surveyors, there have been increases of up to 50 per cent in the last year alone, making life difficult for first-time buyers.

A turn-of-the-century terrace house is fetching £50,000, a big Edwardian detached house in one of the more popular residential areas

around £250,000. Building land in the city now costs about £500,000 an acre, and is being snapped up by the large national builders with whom local builders find it difficult to compete.

From a surplus of office accommodation a few years ago, an almost-acute shortage has developed, partly because of the rapid expansion of Norwich Union. Demand for industrial and warehouse premises is also outstripping supply.

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MOTABILITY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By Malcolm Brown

Putting the disabled on the road

Yesterday the Queen presented the 100,000th vehicle from Motability — the charity which helps people who are disabled to maximize their mobility allowance and gain their freedom.

Motability was set up in 1978 to help people who get the government-funded Mobility Allowance to lease (and later to buy) their own vehicles. From the beginning of the National Health Service in 1948 the Government had made provision for disabled people.

Initially this was through the invalid tricycle which was really a direct descendant of the motorized bath chair introduced by the Red Cross during the First World War.

But by the 1970s a more sophisticated approach was needed, so in 1976 the Mobility Allowance was introduced.

Instead of a vehicle those who were unable, or virtually unable, to walk were given a regular cash sum.

There were great benefits to the new system. It meant, for instance, that even non-drivers like children or those who could only ride as passengers were helped. But there was still a problem. The allowance was a modest, regular sum, not a lump sum capital allowance, so it was extremely difficult to save the money to buy a vehicle.

The solution, devised at the Government's request by Lord Goodman and Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of

P&O, was the Motability organization.

They persuaded the four English and two Scottish clearing banks — Lloyds, Midland, NatWest, Barclays, Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland — to set up a special finance company.

When the client has chosen his car the dealer gets his money from the finance company, Motability Finance Ltd, and MFL enters a hire or hire purchase agreement with the disabled person.

The disabled person agrees to allow the Department of Health and Social Security to pay all, or part, of the mobility allowance to MFL.

When the car is being



Nigel Haygarth: director has made 3,500 grants to date

purchased, the difference between the finance that MFL can put up in exchange for the mobility allowance and the total cost of the car has to be paid as a deposit.

In its first 10 years Motability has helped supply more than 100,000 cars. The scheme already accounts for some 1 per cent of the total UK new car market. The scheme originally only dealt with hire but was soon expanded to hire purchase. It was also extended to cover second-hand vehicles and powered wheelchairs and, in

1983, to take in the War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement.

For some people the MFL scheme is not enough. Adaptations are an extra cost which has to be paid for separately. They may need a particularly expensive vehicle or require especially sophisticated adaptations to be made before they can drive it.

To help such people the organization set up a charitable fund. It tops up the money available to individuals. Nigel Haygarth, the charity director, says the charitable fund has made more than 3,500 grants since it was set up, totalling nearly £1.5 million.

Today the maximum grant is £1,000. In the vast majority of cases that is enough.

"We would like to give more help but at the moment the funds just don't allow us to give more than £1,000, so they have to try and raise the money. We often write to other charities asking for help."

The £1,000 limit was imposed only about two years ago, simply because the applications for grants started mushrooming.

Mr Haygarth reckons the aim of Motability is now raising between £250,000 and £300,000 a year. Like many other charities it used to rely heavily on traditional fund raising events and street collections. Today it gets its money mainly by writing to companies and trusts.

The policy change — has been very effective. "We've cut our fund raising costs dramatically," says Mr Haygarth. "In the last couple of years we've raised as much or more as we were doing before but at a fraction of the cost."

Nobody doubts the im-



Miss Fiona Munro being introduced to the Queen by Sir Jeffrey Sterling yesterday when she was given the keys to her third Motability hire car

portance of the Motability scheme, but there is no complacency. Key figures in the organization like Peter Large, a governor and member of the executive committee, feel there is still an inequity in the way that the mobility allowance works.

Mr Large thinks the cutoff point should be pushed back from 65 to 70. "I think the problem is the cost, because of the numbers. Nevertheless it is unfair that somebody who becomes unable to walk at the age of 64 gets it until they're 75 and somebody who has an accident at just over 65 doesn't."

The mobility allowance has certainly not kept pace with the cost of motoring, says Mr Large. He would like to see the allowance raised from its present £23.05p to £27.50p.

He thinks the problem of extra costs is particularly intense for those who are too disabled even to drive. They can still be mobile as passengers, but often extremely expensive adaptations are necessary, like van conversions to enable the vehicle to carry a wheelchair or car-top hoists to enable the disabled person to be loaded from the wheelchair into the passenger seat.

Joe Hennessy, another executive committee member of Motability and chairman of the Disabled Drivers' Association, also feels strongly on this point. He thinks there is a need to tailor mobility help more to individual needs.

There needs to be much more state help, he says. "The people with particularly severe disabilities who require very expensive vehicles or very expensive adaptations do not get adequate financial help from the Government."

"Motability has got a charitable fund... I go along with that still with some reservation because I don't think that it should be for a charity to meet any substantial difference between what the Government provides and what is clearly a perceived need."

Everybody who qualifies for the allowance gets a flat rate sum. That doesn't take any account, says Mr Hennessy, of your mobility needs. It recompenses you for an inability to walk, but how do you then compare the financial pressures of somebody who needs a very heavily adapted large van with somebody who needs a mini without any adaptations?

No end to the demand

There are 550,000 people receiving mobility allowance and that number has been growing rapidly. Kenneth Keen, secretary of Motability, who runs the administrative side of the operation from offices in Harlow, Essex, says the net increase (allowing for those who drop out as well as new recipients) has been about 50,000 or 60,000 a year for the past three years.

"That's the market for Motability cars. We've supplied just over 100,000 vehicles since the scheme started and have about 60,000 live agreements at the moment. There seems as yet no end in sight to that growth."

"The Department of Health and Social Security keep thinking that the number of people getting the allowance has peaked. They've thought this year after year, but it hasn't happened. They haven't changed their criteria for awarding the allowance but they're still getting a greater number of people coming forward."

Although there is still a large untapped market, Mr Keen believes that quite a large proportion of the 550,000 simply cannot afford a car. "They get the mobility allowance. They probably need that to live. They use it to buy food, or more basic necessities than a car."

The allowance for a civilian is £23.05p a week at the moment (a little bit more for war pensioners) and is index-linked. The allowance is the same across the board, whether the recipient is a disabled child whose parents need a car to transport it, or a grossly disabled person who has, say, only minimal movement of the arms.

That, of course, means there is no special provision for the most seriously disabled, those who will often need extremely expensive vehicles, and perhaps very expensive adaptations to the cars — adaptations, of course, being an extra which must be paid for separately.

Mr Keen thinks that those falling into the latter category are small, but admits that Motability's special charitable funds are not sufficient to make up the difference (there is a £1,000 limit to charitable disbursements.)

"We can't help beyond the £1,000. There are other charities around and we have helped a number of the more severely disabled people who needed more expensive adaptations to get the money through other charities. The ideal answer I suppose is for some kind of government-sponsored central fund which we can draw on for these very infrequent expensive cases."

A number of improvements have been introduced to the Motability scheme to try and make the package as useful to the client as possible. For example, although Motability has been unable to guarantee replacement cars for hire car clients who have an accident, there is now an insurance scheme which allows the disabled person to get the mobility allowance back for the period during which the car is off the road.

"They're no worse off than if they hadn't come to Motability," says Mr Keen.

© Motability: Castlewood House, 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP (01 831 1234 x 2208) and at Gate House, Westgate, Harlow, Essex (0279 635 666)

Our congratulations to Motability on ten years of invaluable service. (Not unlike a Volkswagen.)



MOTABILITY

PATRONS OF THE MOTABILITY CHARITY

Motability's Chief Patron is the Queen. The organization has all party support and the patrons, who include the Mrs Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock are drawn from all parts of the House of Commons.

The Governors are: Chairman: Lord Goodman; vice-chairman: Sir Jeffrey Sterling; Treasurer: Allan Beard; Sir Richard Attenborough; Sir Kenneth Cork; Brian Fox; Brian Goldthorpe; Joseph Hennessy; Peter Large; John Quinton; Lord Rayne; Evelyn de Rothschild; Roly Stafford; Dr Adrian Stokes; George Wilson; Sec-

retary: Kenneth Keen; Charity Director: Nigel Haygarth. Motability North, set up in Manchester in 1984, has the twin objectives of raising money for the charitable fund and increasing awareness of the organization. Motability North's patrons are: Lord Barnett; Wing Commander K M Stoddart; Archbishop Derek Worlock; Bishop Patrick Kelly; Bishop David Sheppard; Basil de Ferranti; Rt Hon Lynda Chalker; Winston Churchill; Sir Fergus Montgomery; Rt Hon Alf Morris; Hon Peter Morrison; Cyril Smith; Malcolm Thornton.

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FOCUS

Back in the driver's seat

At Mavis, where the disabled are taught how to drive again

Over the past few months the Department of Transport has been sending out a leaflet with every road tax reminder telling people about Mavis, the Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service, which specialises in helping disabled people get back on the roads.

It has been deluged with inquiries. In the first four weeks the Mavis centre, at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Berkshire, had 400 phone calls and nearly 300 letters.

The public is still ignorant of the facilities available to help the disabled driver. Ann Frye, who heads the DOT's Disability Unit, says that she set up Mavis three years ago to try and fill what seemed an obvious need.

Disabled people need advice first on whether or not they could drive and, second, what sort of vehicles and adaptations they needed.

"If you're disabled and you want to drive, you're really in a very difficult position," says Ann Frye. "You can't go into a car showroom and start pulling your wheelchair in and out

of the showroom models — they won't let you — and you certainly can't test drive a car because they won't be fitted with hand controls.

"So you're probably faced with buying a car, having it adapted and then discovering if you can learn to drive. You're leaping in the dark, spending a lot of money and you may well end up with the wrong product."

For everyone who has the cash and the courage to go through that process, says Ann Frye, there are probably another dozen who either think they cannot drive or who simply don't know where to start and therefore don't attempt it.

Mavis has dealt with about 450 clients since the beginning of 1986. They range in age from 16 to 80.

The Mavis centre has a range of the most common kinds of production car, from the mini to the Cavalier estate with remote steering, and for a fee of £50 it will assess the disabled person's driving ability, advise on car adaptations and give drivers a vehicle familiarization session.

The Mavis unit can cope



Ann Frye: Giving disabled people the confidence to drive through Mavis

manufacturer showing what adaptations need to be made. "After coming here people have been able to buy a car that they know they can drive and get themselves mobile," says Ann Frye. "We actually have a handful of people who are now in employment because they've managed to get mobile. That really is the key to what we're all about. If you can give somebody mobility you are giving them back independence."

Some of the unit's clients have been disabled for many years and not driven since an accident. After coming to Mavis they have passed their driving tests and made themselves independent. "That's a success by us," says Miss Frye.

An important part of the Mavis scheme is allowing drivers to practice on the private test roads in the Transport and Road Research Laboratory's extensive grounds.

Miss Frye wants Mavis to become much more involved in developing the new technology that is needed to adapt cars for ever more disabled people. The unit already has close research and development links with the Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

with two full assessments a day, often carried out by Tony Regan, a Belfast man who set up his own driving school specializing in teaching disabled people.

The central part of the tests is a so-called static rig which looks rather like the chopped

off front end of a Mini. It is equipped with monitors which measure things like reaction times and the strength people still retain in their limbs.

At the end of the assessment the client gets a written report that can be taken to the car

A fleet giving the freedom of the roads

Motability Finance Ltd, the financial arm of Motability, has more than 57,000 cars on its books at the moment, 36,000 of them on hire to disabled clients, the rest being bought under hire purchase agreements.

MFL was established 10 years ago by the four English clearing banks (Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and Natwest) plus the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland, to finance the Motability scheme.

The banks effectively provide MFL with an overdraft on which to run its business. Motability issues lists of models covered by the hire and hire purchase schemes. When a disabled person goes to a dealer in the scheme and selects his car, Motability Finance is invoiced by the dealer for the cost of the car.

So MFL owns the cars and either

hires them out to the client (knowing that the dealer will actually buy the car back at an agreed price at the end of the hire period) or enters a hire purchase agreement, just like an ordinary finance house, at the end of which ownership passes wholly to the disabled person.

The banks provide MFL's "kitty", which stands at £200 million, at a very low rate of interest. Whatever tiny profit there is, it is immediately ploughed back into MFL as running expenses.

The ties between the banks and MFL are very close. MFL's chief executive, Malcolm Titchener, has been seconded from Lloyds Bank, where he was a senior manager at head office, and nearly all the 67 staff have been seconded from the English

clearers on two or three-year arrangements.

MFL is managed by a working party made up of representatives from each of the participating banks, all of whom give their services free. The organization is central to the Motability scheme. It issues the agreement for every car sold or hired and is the body which actually hands over the cash to the car dealer. It also looks after insurance, maintenance and final resale of the hire cars.

"We do every function that any other finance company would do that has cars on hire or hire purchase," says Mr Titchener. The growth of the company has been very rapid, says Mr Titchener, but there is still enormous room for expansion. At present, he calculates, just over 10 per cent of the recipients of the mobility allowance

actually have a car through the scheme, which means there is still an enormous potential market.

"Our business in the last year must have increased at 25 per cent and I anticipate that this year it will be approximately 30 per cent." The group has financed more than 100,000 cars since the scheme began, 57,000 of which are still current, the rest having been sold on to other people when their neediness to Motability was over.

One of the factors which may well increase demand on MFL is the introduction of small cars with automatic gearboxes.

"That's bound to make a difference...it must boost sales." The group also finances wheelchairs, but there are only about 1,250 still on the books.

The Birth of Motability Finance Limited



John Quinton, First Chairman of MFL.

In 1977 a conversation, on the following lines, took place between Lord Goodman and Sir Jeffrey Sterling, representing disabled persons, and the Committee of London and Scottish Clearing Banks:

"Gentlemen, as you are probably aware, the Government has decided to cease issuing three-wheel invalid cars to disabled persons. A charity, which we have named Motability, has been formed to help the disabled obtain new cars to replace the old ones. We would like the assistance of the Clearing Banks in financing the provision of these new cars. The basic criteria is that the cost to the disabled person must not exceed the amount of the weekly mobility allowance."

"How much is this weekly mobility allowance?"

"Approximately £10 a week."

"And how much is the cost of the new car?"

"An average of about £1850."

"And you would like us to provide cars to disabled persons on that basis?"

"Yes."

"Is there anything else you would like?"

"We would like you to provide the finance for the Scheme at rates significantly cheaper than those obtainable on the open market. In fact, we would like the finance to be provided on terms more favourable to the disabled, probably than to any other borrower."

"Anything else?"

"We would also like you to set up a dedicated unit owned and operated by the Clearing Banks to administer the Scheme."

"Who takes the risk of any adverse movements in cost of money, VAT, corporation tax rates, inflation, administration expenses and all other costs likely to be incurred in this type of Scheme?"

"The Banks do."

"Anything else?"

"Not at the present time."

"Thank you very much gentlemen. Don't phone us, we'll phone you."

Having recovered from the initial shock, the Chairmen of the various Clearing Banks did in fact telephone Lord Goodman and Sir Jeffrey Sterling. They also telephoned the leasing specialists in the Banks' related finance houses, and a solution to the financial impossibility of equating the weekly mobility allowance to the provision of a new car was put in hand.

After lengthy discussions with the major car manufacturers and their respective dealer networks, and many other related organisations, the Committee of London and Scottish Clearing Banks felt able to support the Scheme to the extent of an initial £100m.

In July 1978, Motability Finance Limited was formed by Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Lloyds, Midland, National Westminster and Royal Bank of Scotland, with the sole objective of providing cars on lease for the disabled. The Scheme was extended in 1979 to provide hire purchase contracts and, subsequently, to include secondhand vehicles and powered wheelchairs. The Scheme has also been extended to include War Pensioners as well as Civilian disabled persons.

After relatively modest beginnings, Motability Finance Limited has experienced rapid incremental growth in each of the last seven years and currently finances upwards of 2,000 new cars a month. The company has over 60,000 cars on lease or hire purchase and this figure is also increasing rapidly each month.

As the Scheme has developed over the last 10 years, Motability Finance Limited has been able to increase the scope and range of the benefits available to the disabled including a contribution towards AA membership and insurance cover.

Although the Banks provide finance at the lowest possible cost, there are limitations to the charitable support which the Banks are able to provide. Increasingly, the more severely disabled require finance for adaptations for special purpose vehicles which would take the cost of the car to the disabled person outside the scope of the Motability Scheme.

Whilst doing their best to provide some support in this area, the Banks, in common with the Charity, recognise the urgent need for other charitable funds to be made available to assist these special cases.

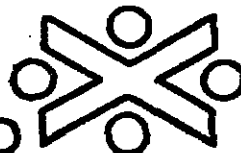


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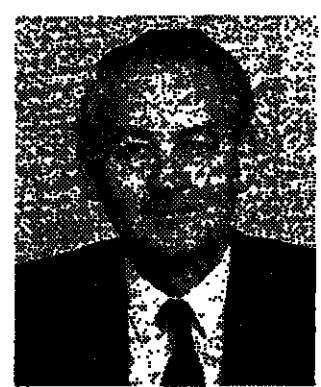
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Motability Finance Limited (MFL)
The first 10 years

Brian Goldthorpe, Chief Executive, UK Banking, Midland Bank and Chairman, Motability Finance Limited.



I first became acquainted with MFL in the early 1980s, during my times as Chief Executive of Forward Trust Group. In common with similar arrangements between the majority of the Clearing Banks and their leasing and finance house subsidiaries, Forward Trust has responsibility for managing Midland Bank's interest in Motability Finance.

This earlier contact had given me a good understanding of the nature and role of MFL. Despite this, I must admit that I was still taken by surprise to learn of the size and scale of the business activities undertaken by the company when, in February 1985, I was invited by the Chief Executive Officers of the Committee of London and Scottish Clearing Banks to succeed John Quinton of Barclays, as Chairman of MFL.

In those relatively few years between 1983 and 1985, MFL had experienced rapid growth, in both its leasing and hire purchase business, to become established as the largest car leasing company in the UK, solely servicing the needs of disabled persons.

Becoming Chairman of MFL might well, in normal circumstances, have been a daunting task. Fortunately, I found the company based on very firm foundations, due largely to the stewardship of John Quinton, our first Chairman from 1977 to 1985, and the strong support given in the formative years by Mercantile Credit, particularly Victor Adey and Harry Hall.

We have also been fortunate to benefit from the contribution made by our first Chief Executive, John Jackson of National Westminster, who joined in early 1980; and by our current Chief Executive, Malcolm Titchener of Lloyds Bank, who succeeded John Jackson on his retirement in 1987.

MFL is without doubt an exceptional undertaking, possessing a number of unique features which I think are worthy of mention.

The company was established in 1977, under the umbrella of the CLSB. The board of directors is made up of one representative from each of the six participating Banks:

the representative usually being drawn from senior management of the leasing or finance house subsidiary of the parent bank. This has enabled us to draw on extensive experience of the leasing and hire purchase markets.

It might be thought that a board made up of six different Banks, which in their day-to-day business, are keen competitors, could be a recipe for potential disaster. This is certainly not the case with MFL; in fact quite the opposite, and one cannot fail to be impressed by the harmonious way in which the directors, and indeed staff at all levels, work together as an enthusiastic team, dedicated to achieving the company's objectives.

The other 67 staff employed by MFL are all drawn from the participating Banks and these staff have become so committed to the concept of Motability that many have preferred to develop their career with MFL rather than return to their parent Banks.

In addition to the close harmony which exists within MFL, the company also works closely with both the Charity and the DHSS in achieving the overall objective of serving the underlying customer base of disabled persons. We also receive strong support in achieving this objective from major motor manufacturers and their dealer networks, and many other organisations which provide a competitively priced service in support of the Scheme.

The Motability Scheme is an excellent and perhaps unique example of co-operation between the private and public sectors which might well serve as a 'blue print' in other areas of social need.

Although it is not the role of the Clearing Banks to provide charitable funds as such, it is certainly the role of the Charity to ensure that the resources which are available are managed in the most cost effective manner possible, to provide the disabled person with the maximum benefit at the lowest possible price.

We feel that through the close working relationship and harmony which has been established both within MFL and between MFL, the Charity and the DHSS, this is being fulfilled.

Over the last five years, the growth in the Motability Scheme has been quite phenomenal, largely as a result of both the increase in the number of persons qualifying for the Mobility Allowance and through the work of the Charity and the DHSS in making the Scheme known to those in receipt of the Mobility Allowance.

Having now passed the significant event in our history of financing the 100,000th car, we look forward, within the foreseeable future, to the delivery of the 200,000th car and perhaps, in the not too distant future, the 300,000th car.

صحة عامة الأصل

The drive to overcome injuries and go it alone

CASE HISTORY-1

This July David Howard will be going to France for a short holiday. He will drive there in his Ford Transit van, the first time he has taken it on a long trip. Nothing unusual in that perhaps... except that he is tetraplegic, paralysed from the chest down, with only very limited ability to move his arms.

David Howard is 28. Four years ago, on his way back from a wedding in Wiltshire, his car flew off the A303 near Andover, ploughed into a wood and he broke his neck. He cannot remember the accident at all, but accepts the police reconstruction of the event.

They say he was overtaking another car, found himself facing a head on collision with a third vehicle and swerved off the road to avoid it.

"I broke my neck at the sixth and seventh Cervical vertebrae level, which means that I'm paralysed completely from the chest down. I've got no finger movement on the right hand and very little finger movement on the other. My arms are also weaker than a normal person's."

Four years after the crash he lives alone in a ground floor flat in Bracknell, studying Open University maths (he was a late 1970s drop-out from Liverpool University where he read, and failed, physics) and planning an independent future, perhaps as a teacher or a lawyer.

Independence (in which his new van is an important factor) is crucial to him. He spent 10 months in hospital and a period of rehabilitation at a Cheshire Home - then, as fast as he could, got back to a relatively normal existence.

"Straight from the off I

decided to move out on my own, even before I knew I could do it, before I realized what the difficulties would be. I decided I was going to live on my own, because the only other options they give you are to go into an institution of some sort or go and live with your family.

"I decided that would be a bad idea. I wanted to be on my own. The options were not bearable really. I didn't want to go into an institution and I didn't want to go and live with my relations - we'd have driven each other crazy."

The flat in Bracknell was the first step towards independence. The van is the next. "I decided I had to be mobile. I thought if I'm going to live on my own I'm going to have to have some form of transport. I wanted to drive. I wanted to be able to get into a vehicle, drive it to my destination, get out and push my wheelchair to wherever I want. I had to do it all on my own."

Door opened by infra-red sensor

David Howard admits that if he were still able-bodied and saw a person as disabled as he was getting into a vehicle he would have his doubts.

"My initial reaction would be: That's dodgy... don't fancy driving next to him." But in fact, he says, the available technology is now so advanced that the physical side of driving is remarkably simple, even for someone with profound disabilities.

His own van contains some very expensive equipment. It has a passenger-side sliding door which he can open using an infra-red sensor (just like a TV remote control handset). Once the door is open an automatic lift lowers itself to

Beating the odds: David Howard (above): "Driving is dead easy." Donna Taylor (below): "With a car I'm not disabled"; Avril Shaw (right): Car changed her life

the pavement so the driver can get his wheelchair on to it, lift himself up to the van's floor level, and manoeuvre round to the driver's side where the chair is locked into position.

David Howard, who has no grip at all, steers with his left hand, which is contained in a stirrup attached to the (power-driven) steering wheel and uses his right hand to operate a bar which controls acceleration and braking.

"Before I knew anything about disability at all I wouldn't have thought it was the best thing for somebody disabled to be doing. But the actual driving of a car is no problem. I had a few lessons while I was at hospital and the driving is dead easy. The physical side is not difficult, though the mental side might be."

Not having driven for a long time he thinks the greatest problem initially will be getting back his road sense. He believes that the van will make a big difference. "I'll be able to think about going back to college and eventually I'll think about getting a job."



Settling only for the real thing

Donna Taylor, aged 33, has been paralysed from the waist down since she developed an abscess of the spine 19 years ago. She used to have an invalid car but hated it. It sat outside her parents' home for three months before she would use it. Tonight as well have had "disabled" written on it for all to see, says Mrs Taylor.

"It was very embarrassing. It was obvious to everyone that you were disabled. And they were terribly dangerous -

CASE HISTORY-2

you had to go round the corners very slowly in a wind, because if the wind caught it at the wrong angle it just went over."

The Taylors could not go out as a family because the invalid car could only take one passenger. She jumped at the chance to get a real car.

"If I've got a car I'm just the same as everyone else on the road. I don't feel disabled

because I can do everything else that a mother does. I take my children to school, do my own shopping and I can go out and visit friends."

"Being without a car made me disabled. With a car I'm not disabled because I can do just the same as anyone else."

The car has become even more vital recently since her husband Tim, who works for a construction company, began studying for a law degree.



A turning point

CASE HISTORY-3

Avril Shaw, aged 38, was in Australia when she was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis. "I can hardly walk at all", she says. "Luckily I'm not too bad from my waist up. But virtually all I can walk is to the car...and that's very slowly."

A car has changed her life. She has three children - two teenage girls and a four-year-old boy. School is within walking distance and the girls can take the boy to school.

"But for myself the car is essential or else I'd be within these four walls," says Mrs Shaw, whose Sunbury-on-Thames house nestles behind an industrial estate and in the

shadow of an elevated main road. She needs it for shopping, for going to see her parents or to visit friends.

Her parents live only three miles away but she could not visit them without transport and even the few local shops are out of reach.

She still drives manually, regarding herself as lucky that she has not had to have a lot of adaptations made to the car yet. But multiple sclerosis is a progressive disease and she is aware that hand controls may be necessary. Moving her foot from brake to accelerator can be a bit of a trial.

"It's mainly when you are tired. You've got to drive really carefully and I really should consider hand controls soon."

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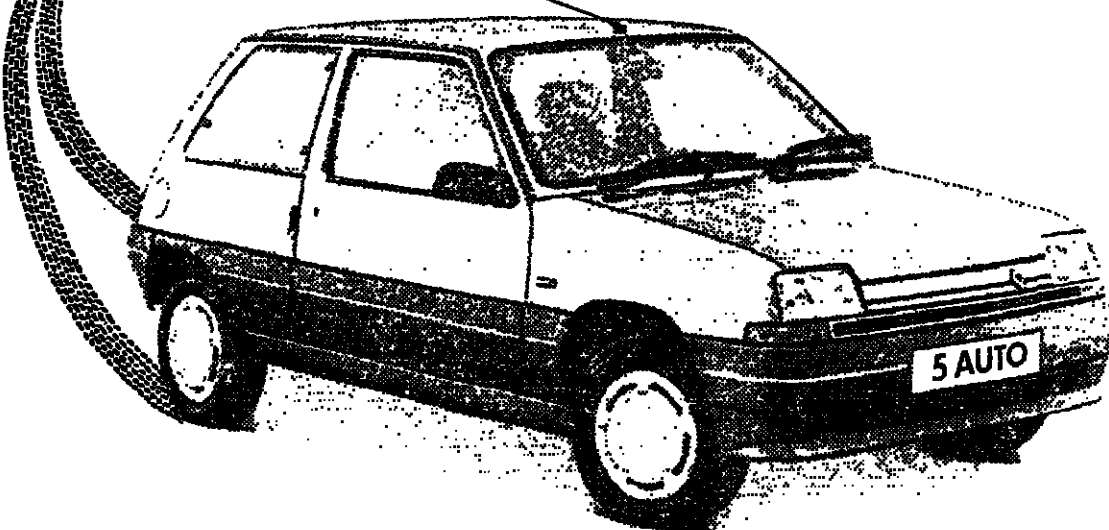


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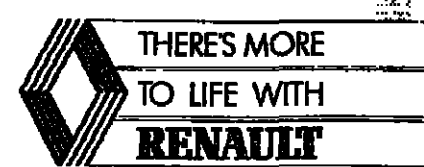
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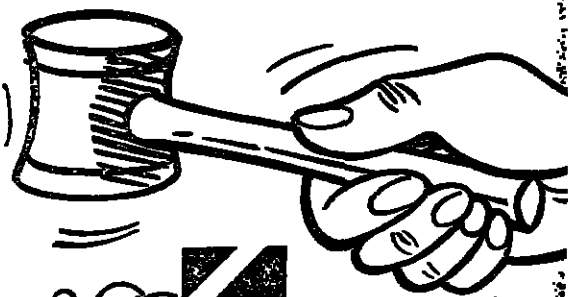
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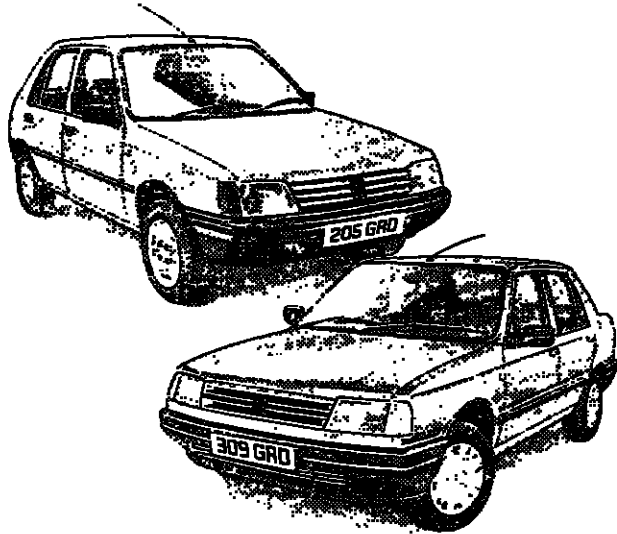


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MOTABILITY

Car design, and the big changes on the way

All sorts of weird and wonderful things can be done to a car so that it can be driven by a disabled person, but what people tend to forget is that before driving can even be considered the disabled person must be able to get into and out of the vehicle.

Access can be a problem even for people with relatively minor disabilities. Research has shown that the majority of disabled and elderly people have some problems with access.

A pair of surveys by the Institute for Consumer Economics at Loughborough showed that about half the people questioned had trouble getting into a car and two thirds had trouble getting out.

The Loughborough team found that the basic difficulty of getting into a car was the limited vertical clearance — in other words there was usually a sill more than 14 inches above ground level and a cant rail less than 4ft 4in above ground level: the person who wanted to get into the vehicle had to manoeuvre through this quite cramped space.

Getting out was also a problem, this time because of the combination of low driver's seat and raised sill.

Big strides made in adapting cars

In fact the researchers were able to devise a door space and seat geometry which they reckoned would be acceptable to 90 per cent of disabled car users.

The next step is to persuade car makers to adopt such dimensions. That may, of course, be easier said than done. Interestingly, when the Loughborough team was doing its tests it used a small group of able-bodied subjects as "controls" and found that they were also troubled by some of the same features as the disabled, though they were able to deal with them more easily.

That suggests that the design changes needed to help disabled people would be widely acceptable among consumers.

Big strides are being made in adapting cars so they can be driven even by those with only residual strength in their arms.

The latest technology is a sophisticated four-way joystick arrangement which completely does away with the need for steering wheel, accelerator and brake pedals and allows the driver to manoeuvre the vehicle with very small movements of the hand. A hydraulic joystick has just come on the market from

Steering Developments of Hemel Hempstead, which allows the driver to steer using left and right movements of the joystick while controlling acceleration and braking with forward and backward movements of the stick.

Motability has been collaborating in research at Birmingham University aimed at making an electronically controlled joystick system. The advantage of such a system is that it could be designed to require almost zero effort from the driver. That is an important consideration for many drivers who can use their arms or hands but have little or no strength in them.

Because energy would be pumped in from a battery or other electrical source, the driver would only need to expend the tiny amount of energy needed to tell the car what to do.

Even earlier on, says Dr Adrian Stokes, chairman of Motability's Technical Development Committee, it was obvious that such an arrangement could be very versatile.

"In fact when we were playing around with a prototype at the Road Research Laboratory, somebody I know who is paralysed in both arms actually drove the car on a test track sitting in the back seat using his toes."

The researchers have shown that an electronic system is perfectly feasible, but they will have to prove that the system can be made fail-safe if it is to get public acceptance.

One concern, for example, is that electronic interference from outside the vehicle could interrupt the controls. Dr Stokes is optimistic. "The first criterion is to say 'How safe is the car as a car?' and an absolute criterion is that any adaptation shouldn't make it any less safe."

Several designers are already equipping cars with sophisticated, electronically operated controls for secondary functions like lights and wipers. Infra-red signalling, the type used in television remote control handsets, is also being harnessed for this.

The most advanced control system for secondary functions is voice activated. The French company Kempf has devised a voice recognition system that can be used to operate secondary functions.

But there are probably limits as to how far that could be taken. In theory it is quite possible to design a car which can actually be driven by voice. In practice the experts agree that such a vehicle will never get into production, because there are too many dangers involved.

FOCUS

Sir Jeffrey moves in

One question, and he began stretching money for Motability

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, the P&O chairman, who is vice-chairman of Motability and one of the principal architects of the scheme, remembers precisely how he became involved.

It was 1978, during part of the celebrations for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and Sir Jeffrey was talking to Lord Rayne and Lord Weinstock when Lord Goodman appeared, announced that he had been asked by the Government to see if a way could be found of making it easier for recipients of the mobility allowance to pay for a car, and rather rhetorically said to the trio: "I can count on you all?"

As Lord Goodman swept off Sir Jeffrey asked the others what exactly they had agreed to. Lord Weinstock's answer was a reflection of the power of Lord Goodman as one of the world's great negotiators. "When Arnold Goodman asks, you never say no."

What he had agreed to, it turned out, was to try and find a way of "stretching" the cash which disabled people received through the new mobility allowance (introduced in 1976) so that the money could actually be used to get them on the road in their own vehicles.

Ten years on Lord Goodman is still chairman, the Lord Rayne and Weinstock both serve (Rayne as a governor and Weinstock as a council member) and Sir Jeffrey Sterling still plays, and obviously enjoys playing, a very active role.

His immediate reaction when Lord Goodman explained what was needed was that the demands on any scheme would be so high that no ordinary charity could cope. Instead he approached the clearing banks with the suggestion that the mobility allowance money might be used in a leasing operation if the banks could put up a sizeable kitty.

"Literally, in about 48 hours, they agreed to make available a revolving



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: Charity for the disabled requires 'a scalpel, not an axe,' such as a lump sum paid by the DHSS

credit of about £100 million, which is now about £200 million."

The banks (through their minimal charges), the motor manufacturers (through very generous discounts) and the insurers (quoting low premiums) have, in practice, given the Motability scheme large amounts of money "in kind" help, in fact, on a scale which would not have been possible through normal fund raising.

Sir Jeffrey says that one of the key elements of Motability's success has been the very active involvement of disabled people in shaping and running the scheme. "Often when everybody tries

to help somebody else, the last person whose advice they ask is the person who needs to be helped. They're treated just as a sort of charitable recipient."

Many of the key figures on the organisation's executive committee are disabled people. The sub-committee which decides who should receive supplementary funds from Motability's charitable arm is also made up of disabled persons.

Sir Jeffrey admits that initially he was attracted to the project by the intellectual challenge: could he devise a workable scheme which would give disabled people a greater chance of mobility? But the early detachment soon vanished and he is absorbed. "It is one of the few charity operations where you see a direct end of what it is that you're actually doing," he said.

The ability to be mobile changes the way of life of disabled people and their families. There are still things to be done. Sir Jeffrey has been talking to Whitehall about car tax (which Motability would like to be exempted from and specifically to the Treasury about making special provision for the very severely disabled, those who need very expensive adaptations to vehicles.

The answer, he says, is not to do something across the board, but to direct help at the relatively small number who need large amounts of money to get them on the road. "You need a scalpel," says Sir Jeffrey, "not an axe." The Treasury, he says, ought to make available to Motability through the DHSS, a special lump sum which could be used specifically for such cases.

Lord Goodman, who like Sir Jeffrey has stayed with the organisation since the start, says that Motability has given him great satisfaction. "The necessity is to be sure that we are able to meet the demand as it arises and the fact that we've got to 100,000 indicates that we have been able to do."



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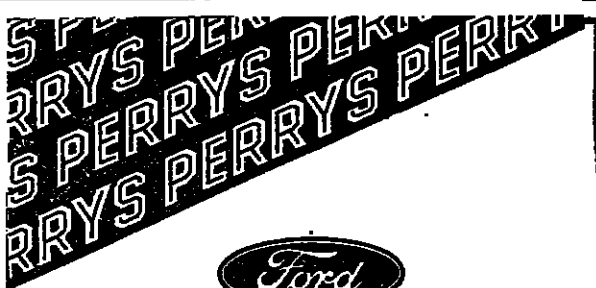
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That also explains why this Fiesta is so economical. Since it always chooses the highest possible gear ratio for the job, it uses a lot less petrol than a conventional automatic. In Government fuel tests it achieved 58.9 mpg at 55 mph.

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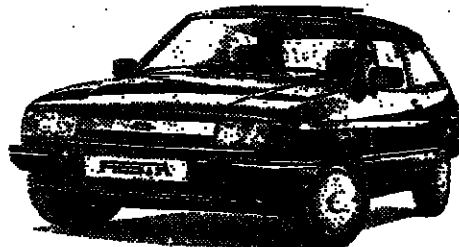
Fasten your seat belts. You're coming for a drive in a truly amazing little car. It's a 1.1 litre Ford Fiesta with a new kind of automatic gearbox, one that's designed especially for small cars. In the first place, it feels so nippy as a manual. In the second place, you'll be amazed by its fuel economy. And, in the third place, it's great fun. Let's suppose you're just moving off. All the controls will seem quite familiar. The gear lever has five positions: park, reverse, neutral, drive and low. Slot it into drive.

queeze the accelerator you're away. And there's where you get your first surprise. This car is quick off the mark. That's because the gearbox is much simpler than a conventional automatic. So it can't use up as much engine power. In tests, it's 0-60 mph within a second and a half of the fastest manual, and reached 80 mph. But the best is still to come. As you accelerate, you expect to feel it change gear. But you don't. You see, the gearbox doesn't have the usual gears. Instead, it continuously adjusts itself so that you're always in the most efficient ratio for the prevailing conditions. People say it feels like a plane taking off. The car smoothes speed with no hiccups along the way, and with any change in engine rate.

Once you've reached your desired speed, you ease off the accelerator and something else quite delightful happens. The car seems to relax into a lovely quiet cruise. A bit like having a sixth gear, which in effect it has. The car slows right down but you maintain your speed. Ward for motorists.

One last word, don't be put off if it feels a little odd at first. It'll only take you a couple of miles to get used to it. Once you have, we bet you'll agree, it's magic.

If you would like full details of the Fiesta CTX, the Ford Motability Scheme and a copy of our brochure 'Ford and the Disabled Motorist' please fill in the 'Freepost' coupon below or contact Ford Personal Import Export Ltd, Motability Dept. TTM, 8 Balderton Street, London W1Y 2BN. Tel: 01-493 4070.



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retriever
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Master Pokey's long journey to pay off

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Following that easy win at York 10 days ago, Master Pokey is taken to win the Brandon Handicap at Newmarket today and thereby trigger a double for Steve Cantello, to be completed an hour later by Looting.

On his last trip down to Headquaters from Sheriff Hutton in the heart of Yorkshire, Master Pokey just failed to land a gamble when he was beaten a neck by Foolish Touch.

However, he more than retrieved those losses on Knavesmore last week when he outpaced Evichstar and

Golden Ancona in the final furlong.

Being by Uncle Pokey and out of a mare by Firestreak, Master Pokey should be every bit as effective over today's longer distance. Indeed he won over the trip at Thirsk last season and I regard him as a sound investment to beat the recent Lingfield winner Dorking Lad.

Twelve months ago the EBF Ashley Maiden Stakes pointed to Sangurico becoming a good two-year-old. Now the word from Newmarket is that Looting will be hard to beat.

Significantly, his trainer, Willie Jarvis, has a key line on Regent Light who was runner-up to Sovereign Fleet, another

of his decent two-year-olds, at Windsor first time out.

On the corresponding occasion last year, Lambourn trainer Peter Walwyn was on hand to see one of his two-year-olds walk over for the Ditch Filly Stakes.

Today he will be there again hoping to see another, the recent York winner, Walwyn, contribute yet more towards her keep by winning the same prize. With four other winners in the field she will certainly have to work for her living.

I was impressed by the way that Walwyn won at York and in going away on her today to give weight away all round I believe that she can show that she is Royal Ascot material.

Stable companion Rawnak should go well in the King Charles II Stakes but I prefer Border Guard, who ran in the same race at Thirsk in April.

On that occasion he appeared to be cantering over that smart filly at today's distance. In the circumstances, even the recent impressive York winner Iran Scam could find the concession of 6lb to Border Guard too much.

At Thirsk, Jack Berry, the season's leading trainer in numerical terms, can add to his tally by capturing both two-year-old races with Summer Cottage (2.15) and Almost Blue (3.45).

Jockeys in Richards and Tuck decide to appeal

Connections of Clever Folly have lodged an appeal to the stewards of the Jockey Club against his relegation from first place in the Sherwood Forest Handicap at Southwell on Monday night.

The eight-year-old gelding, trained by Gordon Richards and ridden by Phil Tuck, appeared to have gained his third successive victory when making all the running to beat Black River by 1 1/4 lengths in the two-mile contest.

However, the local stewards ruled that there had been accidental interference at the last fence when Clever Folly jumped to his right.

They decided that this had



Gordon Richards to appeal over demotion of Clever Folly

NEWMARKET

Selections

By Mandarin

2.30 WAKAYI (nap).
3.00 Ned's Aura.
3.30 Master Pokey.
4.00 Border Guard.
4.30 Looting.
5.05 In Dreams.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Silks Princess.
3.00 El Padrino.
3.30 Dorking Lad.
4.00 Iran Scam.
4.30 LOOTING (nap).
5.05 In Dreams.

Going: good to firm; good (straight) Draw: no advantage

2.30 DITCH FILLY STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,447: 6f) (5 runners)

101 (9) 01 WAKAYI 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
102 (9) 12 CITY BIRD 11 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
103 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
104 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
105 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

3.30 COWLING SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,354: 1m) (18 runners)

201 (9) 000-000 BROOKLYN 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
202 (9) 000-000 BROOKLYN 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
203 (9) 000-000 BROOKLYN 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
204 (9) 000-000 BROOKLYN 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
205 (9) 000-000 BROOKLYN 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

4.30 EBF ASHLEY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,557: 6f) (15 runners)

502 (9) 01 ALWAYS VALIANT (D) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
503 (9) 01 ALWAYS VALIANT (D) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
504 (9) 01 ALWAYS VALIANT (D) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
505 (9) 01 ALWAYS VALIANT (D) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
506 (9) 01 ALWAYS VALIANT (D) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

5.05 IN DREAMS (2-Y-O: £3,447: 6f) (5 runners)

101 (9) 01 WAKAYI 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
102 (9) 12 CITY BIRD 11 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
103 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
104 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
105 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

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Plus Rapid Results Service
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4.0 KING CHARLES II STAKES (3-Y-O: £11,394: 7f) (7 runners)

401 (9) 01-0001 IRAN SCAM 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
402 (9) 01-0001 IRAN SCAM 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
403 (9) 01-0001 IRAN SCAM 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
404 (9) 01-0001 IRAN SCAM 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
405 (9) 01-0001 IRAN SCAM 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

5.05 IN DREAMS (2-Y-O: £3,447: 6f) (5 runners)

101 (9) 01 WAKAYI 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
102 (9) 12 CITY BIRD 11 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
103 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
104 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
105 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

5.05 IN DREAMS (2-Y-O: £3,447: 6f) (5 runners)

101 (9) 01 WAKAYI 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
102 (9) 12 CITY BIRD 11 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
103 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
104 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
105 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

5.05 IN DREAMS (2-Y-O: £3,447: 6f) (5 runners)

101 (9) 01 WAKAYI 10 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
102 (9) 12 CITY BIRD 11 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
103 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
104 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58
105 (9) 01 BECAUSE BECAUSE 10 (G) (J) L. J. W. 9-4... P. Eddery 58

STRATFORD

Selections

By Mandarin

6.15 Gold Scythe. 6.45 Sharp Scythe. 7.15 Headin' On. 7.45 Kelly's Boy. 8.15 Royal Battery. 8.45 Tidebe.

6.15 RADWAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (5821: 2m) (9 runners)

121 (9) 01 GOLD SCYTHE 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
122 (9) 01 GOLD SCYTHE 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
123 (9) 01 GOLD SCYTHE 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
124 (9) 01 GOLD SCYTHE 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
125 (9) 01 GOLD SCYTHE 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

6.45 WILMOTTE HANDICAP CHASE (2,540: 2m) (5)

402 (9) 01 TOWNLEY STONE 6 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
403 (9) 01 TOWNLEY STONE 6 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
404 (9) 01 TOWNLEY STONE 6 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
405 (9) 01 TOWNLEY STONE 6 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
406 (9) 01 TOWNLEY STONE 6 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

7.15 TOM PETTIFER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (2,032: 2m) (5)

204 (9) 01 PRINCE RAMBRO 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
205 (9) 01 PRINCE RAMBRO 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
206 (9) 01 PRINCE RAMBRO 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
207 (9) 01 PRINCE RAMBRO 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
208 (9) 01 PRINCE RAMBRO 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

7.45 COMEDY OF ERRORS HANDICAP HURDLE (2,142: 2m) (11)

502 (9) 01 HARRISON 8 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
503 (9) 01 HARRISON 8 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
504 (9) 01 HARRISON 8 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
505 (9) 01 HARRISON 8 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
506 (9) 01 HARRISON 8 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

7.45 DIXONS NEW HOMES NOVICES CHASE (2,668: 2m) (10)

1201 (9) 01 GOODMAN POINT 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1202 (9) 01 GOODMAN POINT 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1203 (9) 01 GOODMAN POINT 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1204 (9) 01 GOODMAN POINT 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1205 (9) 01 GOODMAN POINT 24 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.15 JIM SLATER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (538: 2m) (10)

900 (9) 01 STAG DINNER 14 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
901 (9) 01 STAG DINNER 14 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
902 (9) 01 STAG DINNER 14 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
903 (9) 01 STAG DINNER 14 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
904 (9) 01 STAG DINNER 14 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TYSONE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £265: 2m) (10)

1217 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1218 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1219 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1220 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1221 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TYSONE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £265: 2m) (10)

1217 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1218 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1219 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1220 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1221 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TYSONE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £265: 2m) (10)

1217 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1218 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1219 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1220 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1221 (9) 01 MURAJAN 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

FONTWELL PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

6.15 Tabarek. 6.45 Prince Moon. 7.15 First Brief. 7.45 Harrison. 8.15 Scale The Heights. 8.45 Ruling Dynasty.

6.15 KYBO NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (585: 2m) (10 runners)

201 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
202 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
203 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
204 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
205 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

6.45 MONAVER HANDICAP CHASE (1,932: 2m) (4)

3222 (9) 01 LECTON 3 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3223 (9) 01 LECTON 3 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3224 (9) 01 LECTON 3 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3225 (9) 01 LECTON 3 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3226 (9) 01 LECTON 3 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

7.15 STEEL LOCK NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (2,088: 2m 110yds) (4)

1400 (9) 01 STEEL LOCK 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1401 (9) 01 STEEL LOCK 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1402 (9) 01 STEEL LOCK 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1403 (9) 01 STEEL LOCK 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1404 (9) 01 STEEL LOCK 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TUSCAN NOVICES HURDLE (568: 2m) (13)

1000 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1001 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1002 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1003 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1004 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TUSCAN NOVICES HURDLE (568: 2m) (13)

1000 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1001 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1002 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1003 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1004 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

8.45 TUSCAN NOVICES HURDLE (568: 2m) (13)

1000 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1001 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1002 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1003 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
1004 (9) 01 CHEF ROSS 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Runners	Per cent
M W Eddery	11	15.2	S Cuthbert	11	15.2
H Cundy	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
G Harwood	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
G Lewis	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
W Jarvis	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
W Mason	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2

Guide to our in-line record

105 (12)	0-0-0-0-0	GOOD TIMES 74 (C) (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
106 (12)	0-0-0-0-0	GOOD TIMES 74 (C) (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
107 (12)	0-0-0-0-0	GOOD TIMES 74 (C) (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
108 (12)	0-0-0-0-0	GOOD TIMES 74 (C) (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
109 (12)	0-0-0-0-0	GOOD TIMES 74 (C) (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

THIRSK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.45 Plan Of Attack. 2.15 Sandmoor Cotton. 2.45 Dress Up. 3.15 Daring Belle. 3.45 Alister Star. 4.15 My Greatest Star. 4.45 Bean Boy. 5.15 Star Generation.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

1.45 Sure Will. 2.15. 2.45. 3.15. 3.45. 4.15. 4.45. 5.15.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 SANDMOOR COTTON.

3.15 NORBY HANDICAP (2,234: 5f) (18 runners)

5 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
6 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
7 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
8 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
9 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

3.45 ROSSETT STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,755: 6f) (8 runners)

1 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
2 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
4 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
5 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

4.15 GORDON FOSTER MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: £3,447: 1m) (11 runners)

1 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
2 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
4 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
5 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

4.45 HELMSLEY HANDICAP (2,238: 1m) (4) (8 runners)

4 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
5 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
6 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
7 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
8 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

5.15 GORDON FOSTER MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: £3,447: 1m) (10 runners)

2 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
4 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
5 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
6 (12) 01-0001 ALMOST BLUE 11 (G) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Runners	Per cent
M W Eddery	11	15.2	S Cuthbert	11	15.2
H Cundy	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
G Harwood	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
G Lewis	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
W Jarvis	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2
W Mason	11	15.2	P Eddery	11	15.2

Afternoon results from two meetings

Goodwood

Going: good to firm

6.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
6.45 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
7.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
7.45 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
8.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

Perth

Going: good to firm

1.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
2.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
3.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
4.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
5.15 (12) 01-0001 SANDMOOR COTTON 10 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

6.15 KYBO NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (585: 2m) (10 runners)

201 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
202 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
203 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
204 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58
205 (9) 01 TABAREK 20 (F) (A) H. McKeown 9-4... P. Eddery 58

6.45 MONAVER HANDICAP CHASE (1,932: 2m) (4)

3222 (9) 01

FOOTBALL

England depend on skeleton staff as cupboard is left bare

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

England's defence, which has steadily been disintegrating over the last six months, has now been reduced to a skeleton staff. So many of Bobby Robson's representatives have been rendered unavailable either through injury or club commitment that, unless necessary risks are taken against Scotland at Wembley tomorrow, the back four picks itself.

Wright was yesterday added to the list of casualties. It already included Butcher and Pearce, both of whom have been ruled out of the European championship. Dorigo and Pallister, both of whom will be involved in the first division play-offs rather than gaining international experience.

Since Anderson is also troubled by foot and knee complaints, Robson concedes that "we are so thin at the back that we are down to the barest cover." He is considering whether to summon replacements such as the versatile Mabbutt, Fenwick or the un-capped Parker, of Queen's Park Rangers.

Wright, irritatingly, was injured in the closing minutes of a testimonial. He felt his calf "go" during a match staged for the benefit of Stapleton in Dublin on Tuesday night.

England's manager, who will reassess the damage this morning, fears that Wright's movement could be restricted for four or five days. If so, Scotland and Watson, the central defensive partnership that was dismantled by Duggan and Rush on Monday, will be

paired against Colombia as well as against Scotland. Apart from the 45 uncomfortable minutes at Anfield, they have appeared together only once before, against The Netherlands two months ago. That experience, until Gullit spared them by walking off midway through the second half, was equally dispiriting. Facing a meagre Scottish attack will be a merciful relief.

Although Anderson may be in contention for a place, he was excused from training and will probably require further protection throughout the next six weeks. Stevens and Sansom, therefore, will resume their roles at full back. It seemed inevitable that neither Dorigo nor Pallister would be ready to be released.

Dorigo, who injured a knee and pulled a hamstring last Sunday, would be more than doubtful anyway. Even though he has yet to make his England debut and Pallister has collected only one cap, Robson says he may be compelled to take at least one of them to West Germany.

The manager's sequence of misfortune has been consistent and prolonged since Butcher broke his leg. Even his midfield choices are limited by Hoddle's absence and potentially by McMahon's blooded shin and Reid's sore ankle.

The list of forwards has also been reduced, albeit marginally, since Hasteley is still on duty in Monaco and Cotes, although given permission by Hoddle to take an active part in training, is afflicted by an eye infection. At least Beardsley and Linaker are healthy. So far, anyway.

As Samuel Peppy might have remarked if he had been recording the mood of the latest collection of Scottish players to face England at Wembley, they seem about as cheerful as any men could be considering their circumstances.

In fact, according to the national coach, Andy Roxburgh, morale in the Scottish camp is extremely high despite the dark fate predicted in many quarters for a team which has lacked inspiration in recent fixtures. Roxburgh said: "We were given a lift by the Colombians, who fancied themselves before they came to Hampden Park on Tuesday, but who left saying we were not a bad side at all."

Meanwhile, Scotland's injured trio of McCole, Johnston and MacLeod are still being

treating for injuries sustained against Colombia and they will be given until tomorrow morning to recover if necessary.

This news inevitably triggered questions about the absent Manchester United pair of Strachan and McClatchey, left out of the Scotland squad because the club chose to take part in a match with AC Milan on the same evening as the Scots' fixture with Colombia.

The pair played in a golf tournament in Scotland on Wednesday and took a portable telephone onto the course in case they should be called upon, but Roxburgh said: "I refuse to give the players in this or any other squad the impression that they can be manipulated or messed about. We are not a Sunday pub team."

By Clive White

tority over Blackburn Rovers. It was expected that Bramall Lane would also be the scene of celebrations, but it turned into a wake for the majority in a crowd of 19,066 as Sheffield United slid into the third division with a 2-1 aggregate defeat to Bristol City.

The suggestion that because the play-offs generate an atmosphere of desperation they are not worthwhile fare, is taking punishment just a little too far. For whatever masochistic reasons, the public has given an unequivocal nod to football's answer to Russian roulette. The Football League, rightly piloted by the Mercurial affair for many years, has been the value of the competitive element in sport, at least deserve some credit for getting it right with the play-offs.

If there is a justifiable criticism of this method of reducing the first division membership (just as Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has been pleading for a return to 22 clubs) it is that it extends the season by three weeks and

thereby seriously reduces the rest period before the next season.

Lennie Lawrence, who has successfully walked this tightrope with Charlton Athletic, believes that it was significant that all the contestants in the first division play-off last season started this season poorly.

If Charlton made their first division quality count last time after further heart-stopping drama at Elland Road, Chelsea gave an indication that they might likewise be able to win in which they put Blackburn in their second division place. But character as much as class usually counts in these situations, and an Aylesbury packed to the rafters with passionately blinkered supporters, will test Chelsea's mettle to the maximum next Wednesday.

One can only hope that in the return at Stamford Bridge tomorrow week, Chelsea supporters, similarly restless, resist the temptation to supporting their team.

By Ian Ross

Johnston is contracted to Liverpool for 12 months, and they will retain his registration. The club's decision to release Johnston, however, is a surprise, as the intention of returning to Australia 48 hours before the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

Yesterday he discussed the matter with Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, but confirmed that he would be leaving on the eleventh hour change of heart.

"The talks were very amicable. Robinson put the club's side of things and I put mine. The football part of my life is new over. I will not change my mind, this something I have thought hard about and I believe that the decision is the right one," he said.

"I do not want to play for another club; I do not want to play the game in Australia. I want to play football simply as the most important thing in my life," he said. "I have had 12 great years as a professional but the time has come for a change."

Alan Davies, the former Manchester United and Newcastle United forward now with York at Swansea City, is recalled and Neil Slater, of Oxford United, and Malcolm

Torrential rain sinks first round in Como

From Mel Webb, Como

With Como looking more like Venice by the hour, the rain, which has been tipping all over Northern Italy for the last three weeks, put paid to the first day's play in the Italian Open here yesterday.

Andy McFee, the tournament director, arrived at Montecarlo at 7.30 yesterday morning. By 7.31 he had seen enough to call off play for the day, and the players, with nothing more to look forward to than their morning of pasta, reached for the playing cards and the travel Scramble.

At times like this, the role of tournament director is an unenviable one, and as the course sank slowly in the wet, McFee, the slightly awestruck look of a man who has seen it all before, launched — almost literally — his plan to salvage something from the chaos surrounding him.

Given reasonable weather and a drying wind, the hope is to play the first round today, the second, tomorrow and, with only the top 50 instead of 65 making the halfway cut, the final 36 holes will be contested on Sunday.

However, even if all goes to plan, the players may find a very different course from that on which they prepared for the tournament. The fairways are like saturated sponges; one more drop of water and they just leak. The greens, though, are in surprisingly good order, so a possibility being considered by McFee, is to cut the lengths of several holes, to make the worst puddles and thus transform par fours and fives into par threes.

It has been done before: The Bremen course for the 1985 German Open, which had already been cut to 54 holes, was reduced from a par 74 to a 63, and Bernhard Langer won with a total of 183.

McFee has already used the downward draft from the rotor of a hovering helicopter in an effort to drive away the floods. That plan might work, but it has been too wet to get them on the course, and to give the event any chance today, conditions need to improve dramatically.

One final thought for those who think that life on the tour is all sunshine and glasses of chilled white wine on the terrace. Last July my hotel was flooded to a height of five feet when the sea broke its banks after a similar deluge. One hopes that the helicopter is still handy. Otherwise, send for Noah.

Last eight place for Lawson

Shirley Lawson, a Curtis Cup player, secured her place in the last eight of the Scottish women's amateur championship with two impressive victories at Southaugh yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

RESULTS: First round, 1. Anderson (Tain) 2-1; 2. Fothergill (Dumfries) 2-1; 3. (London) 2-1; 4. Golder (Hampshire) 1 hole; 5. Lawson (Fife) 2-1; 6. A. G. Golder (Hampshire) 1 hole; 7. U. S. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 8. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 9. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 10. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 11. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 12. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 13. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 14. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 15. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 16. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 17. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 18. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 19. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 20. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 21. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 22. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 23. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 24. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 25. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 26. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 27. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 28. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 29. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 30. D. M. Wright (Dumfries) 2-1; 31. D. M. 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Bouncer pact in one-day series

By Andrew Langmore

Having taken a firm stand in enforcing the ICC's ruling on minimum over-rates in the Test series, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) have compromised on the other issue of short fast-pitched bowling, at least in the one-day international series.

In previous Texaco Trophy matches there has been a limit of one "short, fast-pitched ball" per over, with further short deliveries being called as balls. Under the rules, umpires had the right to warn and then suspend bowlers for persistently bowling short. But the condition was lifted for the first time at Edgbaston yesterday, at the request of the West Indies management.

"This is the first time we have relaxed the conditions for these matches," said Tim Lamb, cricket secretary of the TCCB. "The West Indies agreed for the first time to a minimum number of overs for the Tests, so it would have been churlish if we hadn't compromised on this issue."

At the ICC meeting last year England proposed that the limit on short, fast-pitched bowling be extended to Tests. The proposal was blocked, but the TCCB have clearly not wanted to risk any unnecessary confrontation over the proposal for a minimum number of 90 overs a day for Tests, accepted at the same meeting, and in force for the first time in the five Cornhill Tests this summer.

In amending the rule for the current series, the TCCB also stressed that the umpires had been instructed to be very strict in calling wide for any ball passing over the batsman's head and in their application of the law on intimidatory bowling.

In the event, on a flat Edgbaston pitch, with only three of the West Indian fast bowlers on view — and none of them firing on all cylinders — there was no danger of either umpire having to use their powers.

Marshall, in particular, bowled well within himself, sacrificing speed for line, length and swing, and even the giant Ambrose barely got the ball above stump height. Headingley, tomorrow, might prove a more lively proposition.

The tight security operation mounted by the ground authorities and the West Midlands police, which included a restriction on alcohol and the confiscation of banners, proved entirely successful. There was only one arrest throughout the day, for drunken and disorderly behaviour, and 20 other people were ejected from the ground, mainly for not having tickets.

● Advance ticket sales for the match at Headingley tomorrow have topped £140,000, a record for a one-day international on the ground.

Scorn turns to triumph

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

EDGBASTON: (England won toss; England beat the West Indies by six wickets.) For the beleaguered England selectors, days like this are made in heaven. Their chosen men, widely the subject of scoffs and scorn, produced typically efficient cricket to dispose of the West Indies without undue fuss in the first of three Texaco Trophy one-day internationals.

Better still, the men who negotiated the win were Mike Gatting — in whom their faith has publicly never faltered — and Derek Pringle, for whom their support has often been lonely.

The touring team, hampered by fitness problems, gave a ragged, erratic show. They can understandably do better, but England never needed to be at their best to win. Chasing a modest 218, they survived a miniature crisis in mid-innings, possibly had some luck with a couple of decisions, and won with two overs to spare, Gatting and Pringle sharing an unbroken stand of 66 in 13 overs.

This was England's seventh win in their last eight international matches against the West Indies. Sweet satisfaction for the England selectors; they will know, however, that this was only the first shot of a long summer battle.

The fallibility of the early West Indian batting has seldom been more evident. Without Haynes, one of three first-choice players absent through injury, only Greenidge of the top four suggested a long stay in his mind.

The West Indies have always had the capacity to self-destruct, but here their decline was all the more striking as they had set off at such a sprint that 32 came from the first five overs.

Simmons is a fast wicket player who relies on the pace of the ball for his favoured whips through mid-wicket. This pitch did not oblige him, and he had flirted with disaster before, in the sixth over, he was caught at extra cover off the leading edge.

Much of the significant action was sandwiched between the eleventh and fourteenth overs. Small, in his first England appearance on his home ground, struck with his fourth ball, beating Greenidge's hurried defensive shot.

Richards sauntered in, pulled and drove Dilley for three consecutive fours, then cut Small fiercely and low to point, where Embury took a fine catch. When Richardson lapsed into a lazy stroke against Pringle, the West Indies were 72 for four.

Logie and Hooper were confronted by a repair job, and their enforced caution no doubt helped Pringle's figures. This, however, should not detract from a thoroughly professional job by a man whose selection had been greeted by general amazement.

Pringle, included in preference to a second spinner, maintained a full length and miserly line; five of his 11



Full flight: Gladstone Small unleashes another fierce delivery as he collected four wickets (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

unchanged overs were maidens. The selectors, in this instance, were vindicated.

The fifth wicket added 97 in 30 overs and was a credit to two of the lesser-known touring players. Logie is still thought of here as a promising newcomer, although he is in fact 27 and this was his 87th international. Hooper, however, at only 21, played like the senior man. He has a temperament and range which mark him down as a fine player in the future.

Small dismissed them both in his second spell, Logie by dint of an acrobatic catch by Dowd, and the innings then contracted a second and terminal illness. In the last 12 overs, the last five wickets were lost for only 48 runs, Dujon alone batting with the brains the situation required.

England's innings was also helped on its way by wasteful use of the new ball, this time by Walsh, whose first five overs cost 31, a reminder of his nightmare in the World Cup.

Predictably, it was Marshall who changed the look of the game. He did not strain for pace, but moved the ball in the air and off the seam. Batting was never easy against him and in the seven overs he

bowled before tea, he has Broad dismissed through a brilliant slip catch and might well have had further reward.

Gooch had been accumulating steadily through the square leg region and looked capable of shepherding England home until Ambrose surprised him with one which lifted a shade.

In the next over, Lynch was the victim of one of those embarrassing disasters which often seem to befall debutants. He had faced only two balls when he called Gatting for a sharp swing. The captain sent him back but Lynch was beaten by a throw from square leg.

Both Gatting and Lamb were fortunate to escape dismissal when the umpire, Barry Meyer, gave them the benefit of any doubt in two other tight run-out decisions. Lamb, however, was then bowled as he tried to make room against Hooper and Gatting knew the responsibility rested with him.

With Pringle playing his part capably, Gatting made certain there was no further doubt. His unbeaten 82 was made with utter certainty. He is batting at No. 3 at the behest of the selectors — it is where he should be, and his influence on this result cannot be overstated.

SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

WEST INDIES					
	6s	4s	Mins	Balls	
C G Greenidge b Small	18	2	52	38	
P V Simmons c Lamb b Dilley	22	2	27	16	
R B Richardson lbw b Pringle	11	1	41	22	
V A Richards c Embury b Small	13	3	9	9	
A J Logie c Dowd b Small	51	3	125	95	
C L Hooper c Embury b Small	51	5	99	95	
T P Dujon run out (Dowd/Embury)	27	1	53	39	
R A Harper b Embury	4	1	12	10	
R G Marshall c Lamb b DeFreitas	6	1	11	10	
E C Ambrose b Embury	1	1	6	2	
C A Walsh not out	2	1	2	2	
Extras (lb 2, w 5, nb 0)	7				
Total (25 overs)	217				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-50, 3-65, 4-72, 5-105, 6-180, 7-195, 8-209, 9-212.
BOWLING: DeFreitas 11-2-45-1 (w 1); Dilley 11-0-44-1 (w 1, nb 0); Small 11-0-51-4 (w 1); Pringle 11-5-26-1; Embury 11-4-46-2 (nb 2).

ENGLAND					
	6s	4s	Mins	Balls	
G A Gooch c Harper b Ambrose	43	3	119	93	
B C Broad c Greenidge b Marshall	35	3	67	55	
M W Gatting not out	82	7	136	124	
A J Lamb b Hooper	12	1	27	22	
M A Lynch run out (Richardson/Walsh)	0	1	6	2	
R A Harper b Embury	6	1	49	32	
D P Pringle not out	24	1	49	32	
Extras (lb 2, w 5, nb 0)	7				
Total (48 overs)	218				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70, 2-119, 3-121, 4-153.
BOWLING: Ambrose 11-1-39-1 (w 2); Walsh 11-1-5-0 (nb 2); Richards 7-1-29-0; Marshall 11-1-32-1 (nb 5); Harper 7-0-33-0 (w 1, nb 5); Hooper 6-0-25-1.

Man of the Match: G C Small.

Umpires: B J Meyer and J Birkshaw.

Overs	10	20	30	40	50
West Indies	46-1	85-4	110-4	149-4	191-6
England	45-0	80-1	119-2	156-4	201-4

Manchester's ship comes in with flag flying

By John Goodbody

MANCHESTER 1 9 9 6

Manchester, by a startlingly large margin of 20 votes to 11, was yesterday nominated as Britain's candidate for the 1996 Olympic Games.

The British Olympic Association, meeting in London, preferred Manchester's vision of 21st-century facilities along the Manchester Ship Canal to the established complex of Birmingham, concentrated largely at the National Exhibition Centre.

In a delightfully magnanimous speech, Bob Scott, the chairman of Manchester's negotiating committee, said afterwards that Birmingham and Denis Howell, MP, the inspiration of its campaign, "would be a hard act to follow. Denis has been a credit to British sport, a trail-blazer."

He said he would be asking the former Minister for Sport to help Manchester with support in the run-up to the International Olympic Committee meeting in Tokyo in 1990 when the venue for 1996 will be decided.

"We will be doing our damndest to bring the greatest festival of any kind to Britain as soon as we possibly can," Scott added. He said the task of securing the Games was "awe-inspiring but we have the magic of Manchester. It is a name to conjure with and we will conjure away."

Birmingham polled 25 votes to Manchester's five when the BOA voted to forward the Midlands city for nominations for the 1992 Games. But Birmingham got only eight votes from the IOC members in the contest, which was won by Barcelona. Charles Palmer, the BOA chairman, said: "Birmingham had acknowledged the best



facilities for 1992 when the IOC voted. Perhaps the BOA members thought that Birmingham would never get it and would give Manchester the chance."

But he admitted that he was surprised at the winning margin. He had thought that Birmingham would win, although it would be close.

Whereas Birmingham was essentially a public enterprise supported by private money, Manchester's bid was financially balanced the other way. So far the committee has spent nearly £500,000 on the bid and Scott pointed out that "not one penny has come from the taxpayer."

Many of the capital costs of building the stadiums will be largely funded by private enterprise supported by the Urban Development Corporation. The cost of the Games is further projected at a minimum of £500 million.

A showcase for the 21st century

COMMENTARY

David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

The city of Manchester yesterday scored for the North-West with all the panache of Bobby Charlton in his prime. With total conviction they presented their case to the BOA representatives with an international vision which may also convince the IOC when they vote in two years' time.

Fifteen members of the BOA who voted for Birmingham three years ago changed their minds because, in the words of Tom Fitzpatrick, the enterprising chairman of the British Ski Federation, "they had style and statesmanship."

It remains to be seen whether a project imagined to be constructed around the Manchester Ship Canal can win more than the eight IOC votes obtained by Birmingham when finishing second to last of six candidates 19 months ago.

Birmingham, themselves making a commendable bid organized by Jimmy Munn, their recreation director, failed this time on their personal record in the international negotiating arena last time. The BOA was impressed that Bob Scott, theatrical entrepreneur, son of a former British ambassador and Manchester's chairman, will be able to speak to the moguls of international sport in their own language.

Sir Arthur Gold, the BOA vice-chairman, said of the huge swing in opinion: "The presentation was decisive, though I was surprised at its size. What is important to remember is that even when the IOC votes for a host city, such as Barcelona, much of the Games structure is not on the ground. A city receives approval as much because of its concept as its existing facilities."

Manchester's presentation yesterday concluded with their video, which has a 21st-century vision, emotional yet

practical. And it was backed not only by Scott's dignified, yet ambitious proposals, but by the weight of Peter Hadfield and James Grigor, respective chairmen of the urban development corporations of Trafford Park and Central Manchester.

"The prospects are almost limitless," Grigor said with his engaging Scottish burr, and you could feel the BOA members rustle in their seats as he added: "This is one of the most dynamic committees ever assembled. Bob Scott is a leader among leaders."

In 1986 Birmingham's offer to the IOC was, perhaps, as good on the ground as any but the inescapable memory is that Denis Howell's effort came not even second to Barcelona but second-last. There had self-evidently to be a different approach. The BOA emphatically voted for a new momentum.

Will Manchester fair better? Grapevine indications are that Athens, afflicted by pollution, security and financial difficulties, is anything but a firm favourite for 1996; that the IOC may instead opt for the television potential of Canada or the United States; if not Brisbane and that Manchester's best hope is Sept.

acknowledges, is perhaps for 2004 or 2008. Frankfurt is already funding for a 2004 bid.

What the BOA did yesterday was to put Britain's sport on an imaginative development course for the next 20 years. Instead of exhibition sheds that revert to being sheds. Given time, they should be able to impress the international community in the same way that yesterday they were able to impress a strong majority of the 28 officers of individual Olympic sports and the senior BOA officials.

Play-offs pay off for League

By Steve Acteson

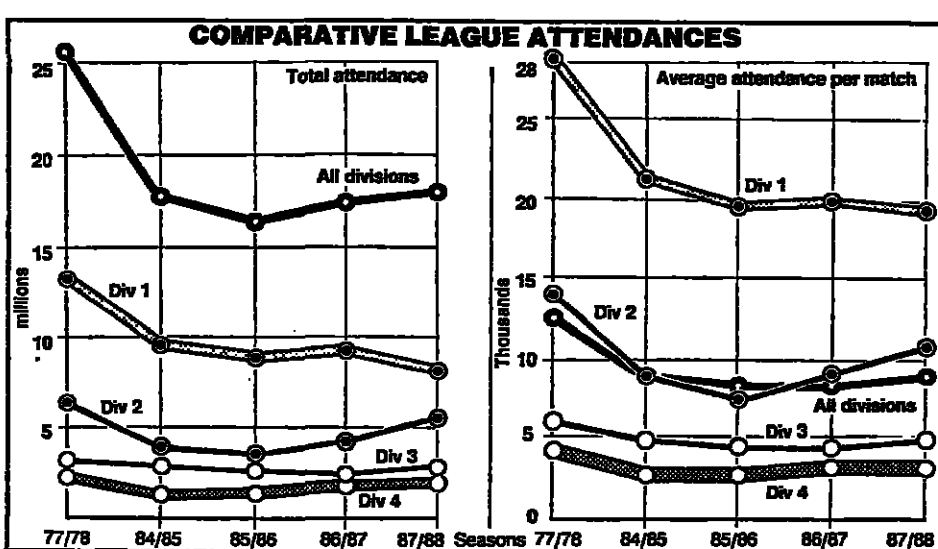
Football League attendances have risen for a second successive season and for only the fourth time since the Second World War, despite a decrease having been expected by officials.

After restructuring, with 42 fewer matches played in the first division and 44 more in the second, the League was expecting an overall drop in attendances of some 400,000. Instead they have risen by a provisional 577,000 on the regular season, which does not take the play-offs into account.

Andy Williamson, a League spokesman, cited improvements in crowd behaviour and increased interest caused by the play-offs as the main factors behind improvements in all but the first division, where attendances fell by more than one million to 8,085,995 from 420 matches, as opposed to 462 last season. Overall last season (1986-87) there was an improvement over 1985-86 of almost 900,000 throughout the League for the regular season alone. The 20 play-off matches, including two replays, generated a further 300,000 paying customers.

That level of increase has not been matched this season but an improvement of more than three per cent on the regular season, with perhaps 250,000 to add from the play-offs, still leaves the League rubbing its hands in glee over a provisional final total of more than 18 million spectators, including the play-off figures. Last season the regular season alone attracted 17,383,032, in comparison with the 1985-86 total of 16,498,868.

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, said: "Bearing in mind the reduction in size of



the first division, the increase is quite staggering."

Williamson said: "There are a number of factors involved. Improvements in crowd behaviour is one of them but the main stimulus has been the effect of the play-off system, which also explains why the increases have come in the lower divisions and not in the first."

"More clubs now maintain an interest in the promotion and relegation issues until the end of the season and although some managers have criticized the system we feel that these figures are a complete vindication of it. Without question the play-offs are here to stay."

The play-off semi-finals have also attracted greater interest than they did last season. Chelsea's and Middlesbrough's inclusion in the battle for a first division place — both clubs have large support — has lifted the figure from 78,387 last season to 81,210. The second division play-offs have so far brought in an additional 12,500 but the

figure for the third division play-offs is down by some 7,000 to date.

The first division has been affected by exclusion from European club competition. When that ban is eventually raised it will have the extra stimulus of playing for UEFA Cup places towards the end of the season when interest can otherwise wane.

The healthy trend was reflected in the GM Vauxhall Conference. Lincoln City are promoted back into the fourth division with an 86 per cent increase in support and throughout the Conference gate rose by 36 per cent to a record level. A total of 578,353 attended matches, breaking the previous aggregate record by more than 115,000 and, of the 22 clubs, 17 attracted wider support.

Calling time

Gary Westwood, the Reading goalkeeper, has decided to quit football at the age of 25. The former England youth international has become increasingly disillusioned

Upsurge in attendances

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Season	Total	Games	Avg
1977-78	25,392,072	2,028	12,521
1984-85	17,949,835	2,028	8,892
1985-86	16,498,868	2,028	8,136
1986-87	17,383,032	2,028	8,572
1987-88	17,990,222	2,030	8,867

FIRST DIVISION			
Season	Total	Games	Avg
1977-78	13,256,677	462	28,682
1984-85	9,761,404	462	21,129
1985-86	8,085,995	462	17,500
1986-87	9,144,676	462	19,794
1987-88	9,085,995	462	19,666

SECOND DIVISION			
Season	Total	Games	Avg
1977-78	4,030,823	462	8,725
1984-85	3,565,243	462	7,696
1985-86	2,456,581	462	5,319
1986-87	3,234,794	462	7,000
1987-88	3,271,275	462	7,080

THIRD DIVISION			
Season	Total	Games	Avg
1977-78	2,332,042	552	4,225
1984-85	2,657,608	552	4,814
1985-86	2,456,581	552	4,450
1986-87	2,334,794	552	4,228
1987-88	2,371,275	552	4,314

FOURTH DIVISION			
Season	Total	Games	Avg
1977-78	1,300,280	552	2,355
1984-85	1,300,800	552	2,356
1985-86	1,409,690	552	2,554
1986-87	1,715,447	552	3,108
1987-88	1,772,288	552	3,211

GM Vauxhall Conference			
Season	Total	Games	Avg
1984-85	374,763	462	811
1985-86	354,057	462	766
1986-87	424,459	462	919
1987-88	578,635	462	1,252

London marathon loses its sponsor

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

There are obviously limits to the endurance that a Mars bar provides, as evinced by the chocolate company's withdrawal as title sponsor of the London marathon. After backing the marathon for five years, Mars's directors announced yesterday that they would not be taking up their option for next year's race.

Both Henry Jackson, the marketing director at Mars, and Chris Brasher, the race organizer, were mutually complimentary yesterday to the years during which almost £20 million was raised for charity.

But it was known that there had been friction between the company and Brasher over his

attempts to hike up the yearly sponsorship money, which almost resulted last month in the finishing tape having a different sponsor's name on it. Mars also felt that the marathon was not reaching its target of more women.

Brasher should have no trouble in finding another sponsor to come in at something in excess of £500,000 a year.

● Charlie Spedding and Kevin Foster, two-thirds of the British men's Olympic marathon team, are to compete in the Pearl Assurance Great North Run — the AAA half-marathon championship — on July 24.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Cadle is dismissed

The British and Irish Basketball Federation yesterday dismissed Kevin Cadle as assistant coach to the Great Britain men's Olympic team and replaced him with Bob Brewer.

Cadle, an American who coached Kingston last season, failed to attend the Great Britain team training camp at Lilleshall last week. The federation decided that it was vital to have an assistant coach able to make a full contribution to the team's training. Brewer coached the Great Britain team in the 1987 World Student Games.

Elia can go

St Helens have released Mark Elia, the New Zealand rugby league centre, with two years of his contract to run.



Green: on trial at Penton

Green's date

Virginia Long, the world and European champion, and Lucinda Green, the former world champion and six-times Badminton winner, will be taking their novice horses to the Penton horse trials in Hampshire, a newcomer to the calendar, on May 28.

Ground threat

Madrid (Reuters) — Real Sociedad could have their ground closed for one match after a visiting player was hit by a bottle thrown from the crowd last weekend. Michel Gonzalez, the Real Madrid midfielder player, left the pitch after being hit on the back of the leg.

Bailey's exit

Chris Bailey, who was selected on Tuesday for Britain's five-man squad to meet Finland in the Davis Cup next month, was beaten 6-1, 6-1 yesterday by Sebastien Geraud, of France,